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GREAT BRITISH QUIZ

Twenty questions for eye-openers

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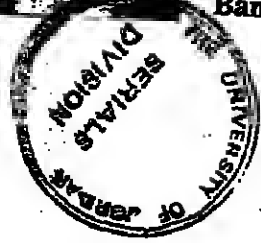


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THE TIMES

No. 64,749

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 1993

RK

Public sector strike warning

Union threat of 'uprising' on pay curb

BY PHILIP BASSETT AND NICHOLAS WOOD

FURIOUS trade union leaders warned of an industrial uprising after the government yesterday announced further pay restraint for five million workers in the public sector.

The statement by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, freezes the government's overall pay bill but allows for productivity rises. It provoked an outcry from Labour party leaders and a string of strike warnings from unions in the public sector including firefighters' leaders who said it brought a national fire strike closer.

But it delighted right-wing Conservative MPs who have been pressing the Chancellor to put spending cuts before higher taxes in reducing the £50 billion budget deficit.

Treasury officials maintained that the Chancellor's statement on pay should be seen as a sign of the government's determination to hit its £254 billion public spending target for next year rather than an indication that it would need less money to finance it, and insisted there were still strong upward pres-

Union leaders announced emergency talks after Kenneth Clarke delighted the Tory right wing by insisting that public sector pay rises must be earned

ures on the target. A senior Treasury official said: "This is basically about keeping public spending within the total the government has set, given that the Chancellor made clear last week that the £254 billion figure would not be reduced. The judgment on how to pay for it — whether higher taxes are needed — is not affected."

Mr Clarke insisted that the new pay arrangements to follow this year's 1.5 per cent pay limit were not a pay freeze, and the Treasury confirmed last night that it was going ahead with restoring the pay agreements for 300,000 white-collar civil servants which have been suspended for this year.

But in pay settlements in 1993-94 — effectively those running from April — government departments and other public sector employers will be expected to keep pay budgets in line with this year's level.

Independent pay analysts said that the planned rise in spending by government departments of 3.4 per cent would now be available only for non-pay spending. The only pay increases which will be sanctioned beyond that would be funded by what Mr Clarke called, in the government's economic evidence to the pay review bodies, "marked improvements in productivity."

The Chancellor also made clear he would not, as in previous years, raid the £7 billion contingency reserve to pay for rises not funded by efficiency improvements.

Local authority leaders accepted they would have to cut jobs or services if they agreed pay rises not founded on higher productivity.

In his evidence, Mr Clarke said: "In an increasingly competitive world, all pay increases have to be earned."

"We have to break the inflation psychology that in the past led to expectations of pay increases every year unrelated to efficiency improvement or the ability of the employer to pay," he added.

The Chancellor's package

was almost wholly in line with proposals put forward by Howard Davies, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, who welcomed it yesterday.

For the Liberal Democrats, Paddy Ashdown said he saw no reason why the public sector should be made a scapegoat to appease the right of the Tory party, while for Labour John Smith said ministers were bound to run into resistance.

The TUC called all public service unions to emergency talks next week to co-ordinate a response to the Chancellor's move, with John Monks, the TUC's new general secretary, attacking it as "highly provocative."

Bill Morris, general secretary of the TGWU transport workers, said: "I warn the government now that they are making an explosive industrial cocktail which will guarantee a spring uprising among

public sector workers."



public sector workers." Ken Cameron, leader of the Fire Brigades Union, warned that Mr Clarke's announcement could be the "touch paper" that lit a second national fire strike.

Clark's statement, page 2
Politics, page 6
Anatole Kaletsky, Simon Jenkins, and Diary, page 16
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Business News, page 24

British couple shot by Florida robbers

BY DAVID ADAMS IN TALLAHASSEE AND RICHARD DUCE IN LONDON

A BRITISH tourist was shot dead yesterday and his girlfriend was injured by three men who tried to rob them as they slept in their hired car on a Florida holiday.

Garry Colley, 34, was shot in the neck and Margaret Jagger was injured when the robbers opened fire at point blank range on the car at a well-lit rest stop near Tallahassee. Police believe the robbers opened fire through the side windows as Mr Colley started the car and tried to pull away.

Mr Colley, who lived with Miss Jagger in Wilsden, near Bradford, West Yorkshire, was the ninth victim of tourist killers in Florida in the past year. Officials yesterday launched a full-scale manhunt and offered a \$10,000 (£6,500) reward for capture of the killers.

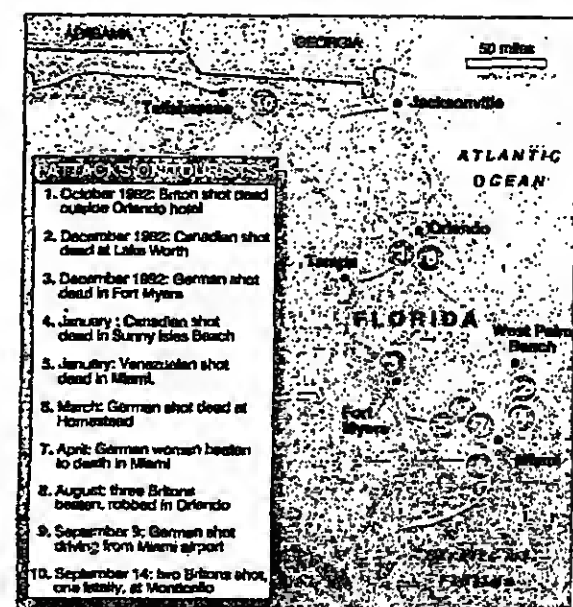
Recent murders in America's "Sunshine State" have led to national outrage over a lack of safety for visitors which threatens to undermine the tourist industry. All state-sponsored tourism advertising was suspended yesterday "to let the situation settle down."

Tim Moore, commissioner of the Florida law-enforcement department, said Miss Jagger, who was shot in the chest and arm, is expected to recover in hospital. The couple had booked their £200-a-head discount holiday through Portland Holidays of London, part of the Thompsons holiday business.

Police have interviewed witnesses to piece together what happened. It is thought that the couple, who arrived from Manchester on Thursday, pulled off the main road at a rest-stop at about 1.30am



Margaret Jagger, who was wounded, and Garry Colley, who was shot dead, lived near Bradford



yesterday to have a meal and return to the Chevrolet car to sleep.

Mr Moore said: "Two suspects approached the car, one on either side. The robbers then tapped on the window and after some discussion, which witnesses said the occupants appeared not to understand, they pulled

weapons and began firing. They shot through both windows."

Police are looking for two or three black youths in their teens who were seen heading east in a red car with white stripes. Lawton Chiles, the Florida state governor, appealed to the public to help with information via a

freephone number. He said all extra law enforcement personnel, including a Florida Highway Patrol auxiliary unit of 500 officers, had been ordered to join a co-ordinated manhunt.

Referring to a new state advisory code for tourists, he said: "They were not doing anything wrong." The car had no hire company identification on the number plate. After several attacks on tourists in hired cars earlier this year, companies were ordered to remove number plates with such markings.

Less than a week ago a German tourist was shot dead in a hired car on a Miami motorway. Uwe Wilhelm Rakebrand, 33, died when he refused to stop after being bumped from behind by an armed gang. Three suspects have been arrested.

The latest attack came only hours after state officials

unveiled a safety videotape for visitors, alerting them to the dangers of holidaying in Florida. It warns of the night risks on state motorways: "Stop only in well-lighted areas, such as service stations or convenience stores. View a map and clear directions before you leave the airport in your rental car."

Although the latest death happened in the far north of the state, at least eight hours' drive away, Miami officials fear it will further damage tourism across the whole state. Florida has 40 million visitors a year in an industry worth \$31 billion (£20 billion).

Keith Bettin of the Association of British Travel Agents said yesterday that more than 800,000 Britons go to Florida each year on holiday. "There are serious cases, but they are rare," he said.

Hoover hitch, page 3

TOP WRITERS IN THE TIMES

Enjoy the cut and thrust of today's team of columnists

SIMON JENKINS

"The Conservative chairmanship is the one post apart from leader that is a test of raw political talent rather than Westminster affability." Page 16

● PLUS: Libby Purves on the soap opera kids (page 14); Margot Norman on reliving history (page 15); Alan Coren on cuckoo-clocks (page 16); and David Miller on Atherton and emotional chemistry (page 42)

The Times Today

● Turn to the back page of this section for a daily digest of news, business, sport, features and opinion unique in British national newspapers. The Times Today puts busy readers in the know quickly and provides an appetiser for articles you will want to return to later. Page 22

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Vitamins clue to cancer treatment

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

VITAMIN pills may help to ward off cancer, according to the first large-scale population trial. In five years, deaths from cancer fell by 13 per cent.

The study adds to growing evidence that doubling the normally recommended intake of vitamins and minerals could save thousands of lives. Most doctors used to believe that vitamin supplements were a waste of money, but opinions are changing fast.

Scientists from the US National Cancer Institute and the Chinese Cancer Institute collaborated in the study, involving nearly 30,000 people in Linxian, a rural region of north central China where mortality from cancer of the stomach and oesophagus is among the highest in the world.

Different groups were given different combinations of vitamins and minerals in a five-year trial. Volunteers were divided into four groups and

matched against controls given placebos.

One group, those given a combination of vitamin E, beta carotene (a form of vitamin A) and the mineral selenium, in doses roughly double the US recommended daily allowances, showed a significant reduction in cancer. In this group, the team reports today in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, deaths from cancer of the stomach were cut by 21 per cent; deaths from all cancers were down by 13 per cent, and deaths from all causes by 9 per cent. Over such a short period, this is a striking result.

The supplements that reduced cancer were antioxidants, substances which work by mopping up damaging free radicals in the body. These are believed to be implicated in many diseases, including cancer and heart disease.

Diary, page 16

Airbus with 70 on board crashes

FROM REUTERS IN WARSAW

A GERMAN Lufthansa A320 Airbus carrying 70 people crashed yesterday on landing in heavy rain at Warsaw and burst into flames. There were conflicting reports about casualties.

A Polish doctor said he saw at least 30 charred bodies in the aircraft, and a fire brigade spokesman reported that up to 40 people may have burnt to death. Lufthansa said in Germany that all 64 passengers and six crew survived after flight LH2904 from Frankfurt ran off the runway's end at Okęcie airport, hit a barrier, nosedived over it and caught fire.

Franz Bertle, the German ambassador to Warsaw, was on the aircraft but survived and is in hospital.

Short loses fourth game

GARRY Kasparov extended his lead over Nigel Short last night with victory in the fourth game of *The Times* World Chess Championship. Short opened aggressively but was unable to build upon his early advantage as Kasparov first absorbed the British challenger's attack and then fought back with a succession of bold moves. Short resigned after 40 moves to give Kasparov a 3½-1½ lead in the 24 game series.

The defeat was particularly disappointing for the Short camp, as the challenger had the advantage of playing white.

Moves and analysis, page 8

Rabin stopover spreads peace hope to Morocco

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

WITH the logjam in the Middle East peace process broken at last, the momentum increased yesterday with an unexpected stopover in Morocco by Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's prime minister, and the intialling of an outline peace accord between Jordan and the Jewish state.

Mr Rabin said on arrival in Rabat that the Israelis hoped and believed it possible "to widen relations among Arab states and the Arab world". His surprise visit added to optimism that new vistas of co-operation were opening with Arab and Muslim states.

The day after Israel and the PLO declared an end to their conflict, Jordanian and Israeli officials gathered at the State Department to initial an accord that lays the foundation for an eventual peace treaty and full diplomatic recognition between the two states.

Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, hailed the accord as another sign of crumbling Middle East barriers. "Yesterday I expressed the hope that we could see progress toward a comprehensive peace between Israel and all her Arab neighbours," he said. "Today we take a very important step toward that comprehensive peace."

The semi-official *al-Ahram* daily in Cairo declared in an unusually upbeat editorial: "The peace train is moving." Radical protests against the PLO treaty continued, but for the moment the moderate majority appear to have gained the upper hand.

In Washington, Israel and

Jordan agreed an agenda for negotiation on security, border disputes, economic co-operation, water rights and the future of the 1.5 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

Yesterday's accord had in fact been ready for months, but Jordan delayed endorsing it until Israel and the PLO had reached agreement.

Revealing in his new-found respectability, Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, continued his public relations offensive in Washington, giving a string of interviews and meeting Senate leaders on Capitol Hill.

Mr Arafat was later flying to New York to meet Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general. This was his first visit to the UN since 1974 when he appeared wearing a holster.

Yesterday Mr Clinton reaped the reward, though he had played no part in the secretly negotiated accord. The front of every newspaper showed him nudging Mr Rabin and Mr Arafat into their peace handshake.

That picture was a huge political bonus for the president, but one which presents him with an equally big challenge. The accord has offered him a unique opportunity to achieve peace throughout the region, and he must not be remembered as the president who squandered it.

A new Gallup poll yesterday gave him a 47 per cent approval rating, his highest since early in his presidency.

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Letters, page 17

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The National and Homes



Public school heads back campaign to ditch A levels

By John O'Leary and Ben Preston

INDEPENDENT school heads joined forces with Labour yesterday to demand the abolition of A levels, intensifying the pressure on John Patten, the education secretary, to extend his school reforms into the sixth form.

Leaders of the Headmasters' Conference, which includes most public schools, made A levels their main target at their annual meeting opened in Oxford. Mr Patten is due to address the conference this morning.

The heads have been split over the merits of A levels, which the government regards as the peak of secondary education. Yesterday, however, they presented a united opposition to the examination, which Robin Wilson, their chairman, said was "past its sell-by date".

Mr Wilson, the head of Trinity School, Croydon, said A levels were too narrow and encouraged pupils to discard important subjects at too young an age. Even in independent schools, only a third of sixth formers studied science and 15 per cent took a modern language.

"The urge is there from the pupils themselves," Mr Wilson said. "They are aware that they need their numeracy and languages more than a school under the present system is able to provide."

Developing a theme he explored last month in *The Times*, Mr Wilson called for an examination along the lines of the GCSE to be taken a year earlier, at 15, allowing students to then choose from an integrated system of vocational and academic courses of varying lengths. He registered independent school heads' doubts about the separate vocational qualifications now being launched in state schools and colleges.

Tony Evans, head of Portsmouth Grammar School, who chairs the conference's academic panel, said: "The time has come to review the system. We are not laying down any

particular format, but the options are much wider and more obvious on the Continent and we should consider taking more subjects to a later stage here."

Roy Chapman, the head of Malvern College, one of three conference schools offering the international baccalaureate, said students favoured broader education while parents still saw A levels as the "passport to the educational afterlife".

He added: "I am all for the maintenance of high standards and rigour, but I have become very conscious of the limitations of A levels."

Heads and classroom teachers' organisations in state schools are already pressing for the reform of A levels, with the support of universities. The government's attempt to introduce breadth in the sixth form by developing AS levels has ground to a halt.

Meanwhile, Labour said its new education green paper would remove the key pillars of Conservative policy for schools. It promised that a Labour government would abolish national examination league tables and return grant maintained schools to the local authority fold. Both the national curriculum and national testing at seven, 11 and 14 would be reviewed.

Ann Taylor, the party's education spokeswoman, said: "We think the A level is too restrictive an examination and is not in the best interest of pupils, employers or higher education. It is only ministers, sticking their heels in, who say it should remain."

Mrs Taylor said the examination should instead be built on the success of the GCSE, which included continuous assessment and coursework.

Next week, the party will publish a blueprint for 16 to 18 education. It will suggest the replacement of A levels with a more flexible system encouraging students to mix academic and vocational courses as well as science and arts subjects.



The Chancellor leaves the Treasury yesterday; his driver is among the five million public servants affected by the wages clampdown he announced.

Clarke rules out growth in public pay bill

By Nicholas Wood
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

■ The government believes that wages in the public sector should be subject to as stringent discipline as private-sector pay

PAY increases for Britain's five million public sector workers must be offset by higher productivity, Kenneth Clarke said yesterday.

In a statement accompanying the government's evidence to the five pay review bodies covering 1.4 million employees, the Chancellor said: "There will be no formal limit on settlements, and different arrangements may apply to different groups. But it will be necessary throughout the public service to recognise that growth in pay bills will not be possible at this stage of the economic recovery."

"Government departments will be expected to keep their running costs, including pay budgets for their own employees, to their 1993-4 level in cash terms, except where there are significant changes in activity

above that which can reasonably be accommodated by marked improvements in productivity.

"This is not a freeze on pay settlements and does not prevent next year's pay negotiations. But it will help to ensure that increases in pay do not add to public spending. A similar approach will be needed for other public sector pay groups, including those whose pay is recommended by the review bodies."

The Chancellor added that he would not raise the contingency reserve, pencilled in at £7 billion for next year, to save any award that breached the freeze on the £80 billion public sector pay bill.

"The government will not be

able to accept review body recommendations which go beyond what can be afforded within agreed programmes."

He added: "In an increasingly competitive world, all pay increases have to be earned. We have to break the inflation psychology that in the past has led to expectations of pay increases every year unrelated to efficiency improvement or the ability of the employer to pay. We must become accustomed to a pattern where significant real terms increases in pay are not expected each year."

He highlighted inflation forecasts of price rises of 3.3 per cent (excluding mortgage interest payments) in late 1993 and 1994 and that the govern-

ment believed inflation would fall to 2 per cent by 1997-8. He also said that underlying average earnings were growing at their lowest rate since 1967, but were still higher than in key competitors, such as the United States and Japan. Across the economy, unit labour costs were falling.

"The government believes that pay in the public sector should be subject to no less stringent discipline than it is in the private sector," he told the review bodies.

"The cumulative effects of pay settlements of review body groups in the 12 years up to and including the 1991-2 pay round exceeded that of the private sector," he added. He also said that there was no difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff covered by review body awards.

Treasury officials admitted that they did not have full control over all public sector workers. The government ne-

gotiated directly with the civil service unions, covering more than 500,000 staff, and could reject any claim breaching the pay guidelines. Similarly, it had a veto over the review body reports due in February covering the pay of doctors, dentists, teachers, the armed forces, senior civil servants and judges, nurses and midwives and professions allied to medicine. It could not directly determine the pay of groups such as local authority staff.

Ministers believed that, with the pay bill frozen, council leaders would be reluctant to agree pay rises that could only be met by deep cuts in services. Again, productivity gains offered the only realistic way out.

Pay rising, page 1
Anastole Katsky,
Simon Jenkins and
Diary, page 16
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Crying foul, page 24

Rightwingers argue that the lower employment levels in now-privatised companies, such as BT, coupled with their high profitability, highlighted the extent of tightening up that can occur. They argued that overstaffing is endemic in the public sector and that the scope for productivity improvement is extensive.

Frank Dobson, Labour's employment spokesman, disagrees. He asked: "How does a firefighter increase his productivity? Go around lighting a few fires and putting them out again?"

While the value of performance-related pay remains unproven, ministers and employers' organisations such as the Confederation of British Industry, which influenced the Chancellor's policy outline yesterday, are wedded to it.

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Diplomat in clash with arms enquiry

By Michael Dynes, Whitehall Correspondent

INTELLIGENCE reports that warned of British companies helping Iraq to rebuild its military capability were not made available to senior Foreign Office officials, the Scott enquiry was told yesterday.

The disclosure came amid some of the sharpest exchanges so far at the arms-for-Iraq enquiry as David Gore-Booth, ambassador to Saudi Arabia, clashed with Lord Justice Scott.

The intelligence reports provided strong evidence that sophisticated equipment made by Matrix Churchill, the West Midlands machine tool manufacturer, were destined for two Iraqi arms establishments.

But the reports were never shown to Mr Gore-Booth, who was Foreign Office assistant under-secretary in charge of the Middle East during 1989-92. He was responsible for advising ministers on whether such exports should be approved, the enquiry heard.

Mr Gore-Booth said that after the 1988 ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, Whitehall would have needed "incontrovertible evidence" that exports would be used to augment Iraq's military capability before they could have been stopped. Suspensions were not sufficient. He had consistently opposed granting licences for the Matrix Churchill exports.

But at the enquiry he repeatedly refused to answer questions about whether knowledge of the reports would have helped the Foreign Office to argue its case against defence and trade and industry officials, who were eager for exports.

Mr Gore-Booth accused the Scott team of "constantly trying to get me to take a position on information that is available to you now but wasn't available to me then". Lord Justice Scott said: "It seems a reasonable line of enquiry. What's the problem?"

Mr Gore-Booth conceded that "with hindsight" the intelligence reports may have strengthened the Foreign Office's case. However, "at the time I was not persuaded that all such information necessarily should have come to me", he said. The individual receiving the information decided who to pass it on to.

Clarke urges Brussels to cut commission

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

KENNETH Clarke sought to improve his standing with the Tory right last night by becoming the first cabinet minister to suggest a slimming down of the European Commission.

The Chancellor, clearly out to kill allegations that he is a Euro-fanatic, also gave a warning against dling the balance too far in favour of the growing number of smaller countries seeking community membership. There was a risk of jeopardising the EC's political and economic credibility.

Mr Clarke said that people were already asking whether a Brussels commission of 17 members was too big and suggesting that its composition would have to be reviewed as the EC grew.

Giving the Swiss Bank Corporation lecture in London, Mr Clarke spoke about Europe after Maastricht and said he wanted it to develop on the British government's agenda of free-market economics and a concerted fight against crime. He underlined his objections to federalism, and made plain that he had no early intention of raising questions of a return to the exchange-rate mechanism.

He said: "I saw the ERM as a necessary discipline to ensure that member states converged their economic policies to achieve low inflation and a stable competitive market in the single market. ... We were proved wrong when the effects of German reunification caused us to diverge, not converge, in economic conditions."

PoWs' lawyer takes cash claim to Japan

A lawyer acting for 12,000 British soldiers who suffered in Japanese prisoner of war camps is flying to Tokyo today to prepare for legal action against Japan. The former PoWs, who have so far failed to gain reparation for their treatment, have been given fresh hope following recent statements of regret over Japan's wartime record by Morihiro Hosokawa, the Japanese prime minister (Michael Evans writes).

John Major, who is visiting Tokyo this weekend, has confirmed that he will raise the issue. However, the PoWs' hopes for £12,000 each in compensation were dashed yesterday when a Japanese foreign ministry official said that Mr Hosokawa would show sympathy for the way Britons were treated, but would not be offering money. Marilyn Day, the lawyer acting for the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors Association of Great Britain, said he would be meeting lawyers in Japan to discuss their next moves.

Heroin woman hopeful

Sandra Gregory, 28, the teacher from Halifax, Yorkshire, facing the death penalty in Thailand after admitting drug trafficking, seemed to be encouraged by her latest court appearance yesterday and expressed the hope that she would be shown mercy. Miss Gregory is accused of trying to smuggle 102 grams of heroin out of Bangkok airport in February. She was arrested when she checked in with Robert Lock, 29, of Cambridge, who denies smuggling. The hearing was adjourned until September 23.

Children accuse courts

Most children aged 11 to 17 believe in harsher treatment for juvenile offenders, a survey published today suggests. Of 605 questioned, 80 per cent thought that youth crime was one of Britain's biggest problems, and 54 per cent said the courts were too lenient. The survey is being released as part of a youth action conference at Leicester University.

Parkinson injunction

Lord Parkinson yesterday won a new High Court injunction banning further publication of any comments by his former mistress, Sara Keays, about the welfare of his daughter Flora, 9. The hearing followed statements made by Miss Keays on television and the order remains in force pending the outcome of a further hearing today.

Council sloth criticised

Local authorities were condemned by the ombudsman yesterday for delays in dealing with complaints from the public. Delays were the most common fault in almost 400 cases of maladministration examined last year. In one case a council took four and a half years to assess the need for modifications at the home of a disabled person.

Sikorski back in Poland

The remains of General Wladyslaw Sikorski, the Polish wartime leader, were flown to his homeland yesterday after 50 years in a war cemetery in Newark, Nottinghamshire. The Duke of Edinburgh attended a service in Newark for the general, who died in a plane crash off Gibraltar, and will attend the reburial at the Royal Palace, Cracow, on Friday.

Florida shooting

Murdered tourist took holiday after Hoover offer failed

By MARIANNE CURPHEY AND PAUL WILKINSON

THE couple shot by robbers in Florida had only taken the trip after the offer of a free flight through a Hoover promotion fell through.

Steven Colley, whose brother Gary had been on holiday with his girlfriend Margaret Jagger, said last night: "Gary was supposed to be on one of those Hoover special holiday offers, but they messed him about. He got so fed up he booked his own holiday. He wouldn't have been there if they hadn't messed about with his holiday."

Mr Colley, of Brighouse, West Yorkshire, said the family were "shocked and devastated" by Gary's murder. Lawton, Chiles, governor of Florida, has offered a \$10,000 reward for information.

The British travel industry is highly concerned about the security of travellers in the face of crime and terrorism and has set up a working party to address the problem. Nine foreign visitors have been killed in Florida since October.

The attack on the couple in their car in a layby about 25 miles east of Tallahassee comes as tour operators in Britain have been involved in a fight for increased market share in Florida. An estimated

800,000 British tourists travelled to the state last year, accounting for 42 per cent of the long-haul holiday market.

The Institute of Travel and Tourism set up its working party following concerns that tour operators and the Foreign Office gave inadequate or conflicting advice. Working party members will include representatives from airlines, insurance companies, tour operators and travel agents.

Last week, a German tourist was killed as he drove from Miami airport.

Tour operators have just begun an aggressive marketing campaign to sell more holidays in the pre-Christmas

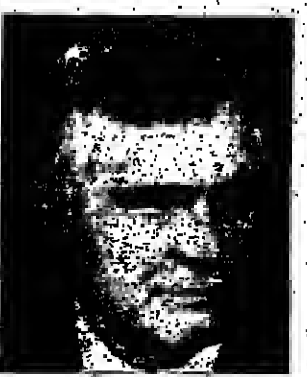
period. More than half of those who went to Florida last year were on their first long-haul holiday, and many were families who booked early to ensure they could stay in the accommodation of their choice in the busy school summer holiday period.

The Consumers' Association has called for travel agents to give detailed safety warnings before allowing customers to book a holiday, but the Association of British Travel Agents claims this scheme could not be policed.

A number of tourists in Florida have been attacked close to their own hotels. Last month, three Britons were beaten and pistol-whipped in a hotel forecourt in Orlando.

Florida tourism officials in London claim that undercover police forces operating around Miami airport are arresting young men driving stolen cars who might use them in "smash and grab" incidents.

However, despite tourist officers having installed "visitor-friendly" traffic signs in the Greater Miami area, and police patrols carrying out 24-hour tourist duty to help lost foreigners, they cannot prevent indiscriminate attacks.



Chiles announced a \$10,000 reward.

Tourists attacked, page 1



The revival of the sixties musical *Hair*, starring Sinitta, left, with Pepsi Laurie Demacque and Paul Hipp, opened at the Old Vic in London last night

Girl, 14, wins legal aid for access battle with mother

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A GIRL of 14 has been granted legal aid to start a court action against her mother, who is stopping the daughter from seeing her baby sister.

The girl went to a solicitor without telling either of her divorced parents and asked for legal advice to sort out the dispute, in which the girl's mother is denying her access to her 11-month-old sister. She was granted legal aid and is expected to start proceedings this week for contact under the Children Act 1989.

The girl's parents divorced in 1983 and the girl went to live with her father. Last October, her mother gave birth to a second child and allowed the girl to visit. But in May, mother and daughter quarrelled and the girl's 41-year-old mother banned her from visiting her home in South Shields, Tyne and Wear.

The girl then went to Wheldon Houlby & Scott, solicitors, to see if legal action could help. Her case is the latest of a spate of child-initiated actions under the 1989 act, which enables children to obtain legal aid and take legal action if a court considers they have sufficient understanding to do so.

Jo Brown, the girl's solicitor, said: "This is the first case of its kind I have come across. The girl... was upset because she couldn't see her baby sister."

"She is a very bright young lady. The courts will have to decide if it is in the best

interests of the baby for her to have access."

The girl's father added: "My daughter is a very determined youngster and feels very strongly about this. I will give her all the support she needs."

Her mother said she did not believe her daughter had taken the action by herself. "She is getting me back for something that happened years ago and I just hope it is an adolescent stunt. It is terrible what I am going through and I just pray she stops this before it gets out of hand."

Last night, the mother added: "There is no way on this earth I am going to allow her to see my baby again. Not after this."

The teenager cannot be named for legal reasons, but is believed to have sought legal assistance after reading about the Children Act. Criticising the law, the mother said: "My daughter is just using this act as a weapon to get at me when she is not happy."

"Imagine if every child decided to take court action when they fell out with their parents. The place would be in a right state."

The mother added: "One day she went to a neighbour's house and accused me of neglecting her and being a terrible mother... I told her not to see me any more."

"The next thing I knew I got a letter from a solicitor saying she was taking me to court. I couldn't believe what was happening, but I will fight this all the way."

Jailed drink-drive vicar is expected to keep his parish

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

PUBLIC support for a vicar jailed for two months for drink-driving has been so strong that he is expected to be allowed to keep his parish in London.

The Rev David Lawson, 46, rector of St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield, — the oldest parish church in the capital — is in Brixton prison after being convicted of his third drink-driving offence. Under church law he is automatically deprived of his living, but Dr David Hope, the Bishop of London can appeal to Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to let him stay.

The Rev Anthony Winter, assistant priest at St Bartholomew, said: "He is single, he lives on his own. Loneliness is obviously a problem, but the decision rests with the bishop."

The Rev Rob Marshall, of the London diocese, said: "I do not think he will go. I think there is a lot of goodwill for him."

"Drink-driving is a danger-



Lawson: convicted three times for drink-driving

ous thing and there is no excuse, but people have got to realise that clergy are real people. If they are single they are often on their own. They are on small salaries and have stressful jobs. The offence was all down to the stress Mr Lawson was under.

"There has been a tremendous amount of goodwill. Everyone knows it was a silly thing to do. In this modern secular world, being a vicar is an increasingly hard job. There's obviously a problem, we just aren't sure exactly what it is yet."

Mr Lawson's case has highlighted the problem of stress among the clergy, who often crack under the strain of being idealised by parishioners. Drink is cited as the cause for the breakdown of many clergy marriages.

John Gayford, director of the alcoholic unit at Warlingham Park hospital in Surrey and a consultant at St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy in London, said it was often a crisis such as a drink-driving conviction that led people to seek help for their drinking.

"I have had mixed results in the treatment of the clergy. Some are re-established in their parishes. Some have dropped out completely and one I know committed suicide."

He said the problems that caused drinking included stress. "It can be that they have difficulty doing things in public," said Dr Gayford. "They use alcohol as a prop."

Dr Gayford said the proportion of clergy who develop drink problems was no higher than in other professions, but it appeared more shocking because of their public position.

Bus driver given life for killing passenger

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BUS driver who beat and strangled a passenger as she travelled home from work was jailed for life yesterday.

Angry relatives of the victim applauded the sentence, and one shouted "Roast in hell" as Paul Higham, 28, was led from the dock at Liverpool Crown Court to begin his sentence.

Higham was described as a "dangerous man" by Mr Justice Morland after he admitted murdering Lisa Bayliss, a 20-year-old hospital audiology technician.

Miss Bayliss, who lived with her parents in Whiston, Merseyside, was the only passenger when she caught a 320 bus from Liverpool to Wigan after working at Royal Liverpool Hospital at about 6.30pm on November 18 last year, the court was told.

Rodney Klevan QC, for the prosecution, said Higham, a married man from Platt Bridge, Greater Manchester, took the bus through Huyton and then to the A53 which was not on its route, where it was seen parked in a lay-by without lights for about 45 minutes.

Higham beat and strangled Miss Bayliss, left her body in the lay-by and drove back to the bus depot in Wigan. By the time her body was found at 9.15pm Higham was in a pub. Later an attempt was made to use her Barclaycard to get cash from a machine near Higham's home. A pathologist found Miss Bayliss had been strangled but suffered severe bruising and cuts and a broken jaw before she died. Forensic evidence indicated she had been killed after a struggle in the front of the bus.

"My Rolex is more than just a watch, it makes me feel dressed."

In everything that she does, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa combines a remarkable liveliness and spontaneity with an absolute obsession with perfection.

She delights in Strauss and Mozart "because the women in their operas are contradictory: warm and cool at the same time." Two of her favourite roles, for example, are the sad young Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and the frenzied, passionate Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*.

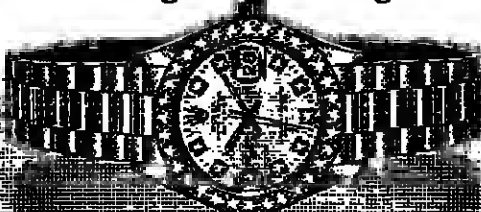
When she decided to sing the Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Kiri said it was "because the character appeals to me. She has understanding and maturity and when she lets her lover go,

I feel it's not completely the end of the world for her. I'm sure I will have to sing the Marschallin 100 times before I fully understand the depth of the character."

Her famous voice is in such worldwide demand that she is booked up for years to come. Will her voice stand the strain? Kiri says, "What you have to remember is to give quality, not quantity."

For many years, Rolex has shared that same obsession. "My Rolex," says Kiri, "is more than just a watch, it also makes me feel dressed. It has been a friend for a long time."

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Star leads a wise man to celebrate Christmas early

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AN ASTRONOMER claims we should be pulling crackers and carving Christmas turkeys today, on the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of Christ.

Dr David Hughes, of Sheffield University, bases his calculations on astronomical and historical evidence, which points to September 15th 7 BC as the day when Christ was born in the stable in Bethlehem.

The theory has so far had no effect on the Christian calendar, and neither does Dr Hughes expect it to. The world will continue to celebrate Christ's birth on December 25 and believe he was born 1,993 years ago — although neither assumption has any historical basis. Dr Hughes' theory is

based on the star that led the three wise men to the stable. He believes this was an unusual conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, which appeared in the heavens in 7 BC very close to each other.

That Christ was born well before AD 1 is generally accepted. When the calendar numbering the years from his birth was originally set out in AD 525 by the monk Dionysius Exiguus, he totted up the history of the Roman empire but overlooked four years of the rule of the emperor Octavian.

As for December 25, that was chosen because it was close to the winter solstice and the Roman feast of Saturnalia.

Dr Hughes says the exact date must fall between about

8 BC and a couple of years before the death of Herod, which he puts at 1 BC. That leaves a fairly long period in which to search for astronomical events that might match the account in Matthew's gospel.

"Given a five-year time slot, you would be a pretty poor astronomer if you couldn't come up with several possibilities," he said.

"Quite a few theologians believe the story of the star was invented by Matthew, but I don't."

"Even if you do believe in it, there are other possibilities, including a comet that appeared in 5 BC. We'll never know the final answer."

Leading article, page 17

Radio 1 chief bows out with attack on 'dinosaurs' as chart-rigging claims are rejected

Luddites are accused of killing BBC from within

By Andrew Pierce

THE outgoing head of Radio 1 launched a fierce attack yesterday on the "modern Luddites" who were trying to destroy the BBC from within.

Johnny Beertling gave a hiner valedictory speech to the in the City music convention in Manchester. Mr Beertling, 56, singled out the disc jockey Dave Lee Travis, who announced his resignation live on air to millions of startled Radio 1 listeners last month.

Mr Beertling said: "I don't intend to be tagged along with dinosaurs like DLT [Dave Lee Travis] and others who resist change. On the contrary, I believe that if broadcasting is to survive and thrive it must constantly look at ways of developing and improving the service it provides for its customers - its listeners. No where is that more true than at the BBC."

He denied reports that he was unhappy about his departure from the BBC: "It was my decision to leave." Had he stayed on until the corporation's charter came up for

renewal in 1996, there would have been the "vaguely nonsensical" situation of a 60-year-old running the BBC's so-called young rock and pop network.

Matthew Bannister, a younger man appointed from outside the corporation, will take over from Mr Beertling and intends to rejuvenate the station's image. The decision was announced in June, three months after Radio 1 lost its national pop music monopoly to Virgin Radio.

In a speech which will come as a welcome relief to John Birt, the BBC director general, Mr Beertling said the corporation was undergoing the biggest change in its 60-year history.

"There are those within the organisation who do not welcome change, do not want to know how much it costs to book a studio, an outside broadcast unit, or an editing suite," he said. They were the people who made a fuss about the silly anomalies which followed the introduction of Mr Birt's market-driven costing system, Producer Choice.

"I have to say that in my opinion they are the modern Luddites who fail to see the need for change," said Mr Beertling, who has run Radio 1 for eight years. They were like the disc jockeys who had resisted the introduction of compact discs and preferred to play scratchy old vinyl records.

With the BBC effectively on a fixed or falling income, the only way to make more money available for programmes was to cut overheads. More eff-



Charles Koppelman, head of EMI in North America, who yesterday said it was fanciful to suggest that rackets were having pop records bought up

EMI chairman scorns talk of rackets

By Andrew Pierce

EMI's chairman in North America, Charles Koppelman, yesterday scorned claims that Britain's weekly pop charts were being rigged.

Mr Koppelman, who was in Britain for an EMI conference, dismissed the remarks of the songwriter Peter Waterman as "fanciful and over the top".

The speech by Mr Waterman, chairman of PWL Records, dominated the discussion at a music industry convention in Manchester. Mr Waterman had claimed that the industry knew there were rackets all over the country having records bought up.

Mr Koppelman who says Mr Waterman is "a terrific guy", said there was no evidence for the allegations of widespread fixing. "There are isolated incidents, of course. But normally they would be in the form of over-aggressive

marketing and selling. But rigging achieves nothing in the end. Over the years we have learnt the only way to make hit records is to produce the music that people want to listen to. Pete Waterman knows that too."

Mr Waterman alleged that gangs in cars bought singles to push them into the charts and that record companies gave free copies to shops which then sold them at discount prices to stimulate sales. He said a senior figure should be appointed to draw up a new set of rules.

With more than 30 years' experience in the industry, Mr Koppelman said he had heard such allegations before. "Where is the evidence? Pete Waterman is exaggerating this. There are instances where people will try to have a small effect on record sales. But it is not prevalent and it does not accomplish anything."

Mr Koppelman denied that artificially distorting sales would automatically lead

to a record being broadcast more often. "If it was that easy to do then everyone would do it. Independent record companies would be driven out of business. But they are thriving."

Despite Mr Waterman's negative tone, the record industry was thriving, said Mr Koppelman. The strength of the industry was in its diversity. The recent growth in the popularity of classical music underlined the strength of the industry.

Mr Koppelman was not worried about the short-lived popularity of some groups whose appeal was concentrated among fickle teenage fans. He said: "It's not true to suggest the industry no longer produces stars of the calibre and staying power of Barbra Streisand, George Michael, Billy Joel and Bruce Springsteen. They are major stars. They are household names who will go on and on. I am not a bit pessimistic about the talent that is coming through."



Beertling: "It was my decision to leave"

Two tales of a city shatter Bath's image of Georgian gentility

By Richard Duce

THE popular image of Bath as an elegant Georgian city has been exploded by an American woman brought in to revitalise the local economy.

While Kimberly Paumier's fellow countrymen still "do Bath" in daily droves on the tourist trail, their preconception of elegant gentility is revealed as something of a myth in her report, which highlights problems of pollution, drunkenness, ram-raiding and aggressive beggars.

Miss Paumier, 34, a graduate in urban studies from Michigan University, has been hired by Bath City Council and the chamber of commerce as city centre manager on £30,000 a year to draw up a development plan for the next three years. She was selected from 300 applicants for the post and lives in a flat in the north of the city.

She said yesterday: "When you first come to visit, it is like a picture postcard story with everything running smoothly, but when you get under the surface it is like any other city."

Her 28-page report, now before the council, gives an outsider's perspective on two tales of a city. Bath, proud of its literary connections with Dickens and Jane Austen, is described by Miss Paumier in her city centre audit as a "beautiful city, gifted with resources and assets not found in most UK cities". There are 17 museums, many galleries, restaurants and the Theatre Royal.

Yet weaknesses, some of them long recognised by



The city centre audit highlights increased begging

Bath's residents and workers, are also highlighted in the report which says:

□ There is a high level of pollution in the city.

□ Aggressive begging is a growing threat, with tourists affected.

□ There is general concern over the numbers of travellers and the number of drunks.

□ Bath after dark can sometimes be a threatening place.

□ Large groups of youths, leaving pubs at night and

walking the streets, can prove intimidating.

□ Ram raiding is a significant security problem.

Miss Paumier also singles out the drab city railway station, often the visitor's first glimpse of Bath, as in need of a facelift and is encouraging residents to lobby British Rail.

She wants the council and private enterprise to unite in addressing the city's drawbacks. "It is not a one-person issue. There is an awful lot of



Paumier: "Beautiful city, gifted with resources"

support within the business community and council for the idea that we need to go forward."

"I would like to see the city council as an effective and proactive organisation. It is important that you recognise the parts that are working well and also the parts that are not don't get covered up."

"In the next three years, I would like to see the spa open again and more activity in the arts and entertainment field. I would like to see a compassionate handling of the issue of the homeless and travellers, fewer vacant shops. I would love to see more done with the open spaces, perhaps a fountain or two."

"In the States, the cities that have achieved the most are those that have pulled together. You need to have a vision. In Baltimore, where I am from, the once seedy waterfront area has been turned round in 15 years into being one of the biggest tourist attractions in the States."

Consortium to bid for new Forth crossing

By Andrew Collier

TWO of Britain's largest construction companies, Trafalgar House and Balfour Beatty, have formed a consortium to bid for work on a second road bridge across the Forth.

The two firms announced yesterday that they have formed a joint venture, Forthspan Limited, to tender for the design, construction and operation of any new crossing of the river.

Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, is likely to announce the results of a feasibility study into a second Forth bridge before the end of the year. It is expected that he will give approval to the project, which will cost about £275 million.

Trafalgar House built the first Forth Road Bridge, opened in 1964, and are currently working on the Tsing Ma bridge in Hong Kong, the second largest suspension bridge in the world. Balfour Beatty also has considerable experience of privately financed projects.

Congestion on the existing bridge, which links Fife to Edinburgh, is becoming an increasingly serious problem. The structure was built to handle 14,000 vehicles a day, but was found during a survey last year to be carrying more than 50,000 vehicles daily.

Mr Lang has indicated that a new bridge and associated approach roads would be funded from tolls on both the new and old road crossings. One-way fees could increase from 40p to about £1.25p.

Octopus explosion eats into lobster fishermen's profits

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

A BIG rise in the octopus population of the North Sea is threatening the livelihood of lobster fishermen. Marine life experts say the octopuses are multiplying at an unprecedented rate because of over-exploitation of cod and other fish that prey on them.

According to Simon Foster, a marine biologist at an aquarium run by Sea Life Centres in Scarborough on the North Yorkshire coast, the creature causing the trouble is the lesser octopus (*Eledone cirrhosa*), the type most commonly found in British waters. It can be up to 2ft long from the tip of its tentacles to the top of its head.

"More and more fishermen are finding octopuses in their lobster pots. A lobster trapped inside a pot is easy pickings for an octopus, which can elongate itself to penetrate the mesh of the basket. The octopus usually kills all the lobsters in the pot and then eats them at its leisure," he said.

"Octopuses also eat crabs, but the crab population is very healthy. Lobsters are already being overfished and predation by octopuses is an extra pressure. The octopus explosion is more of a nuisance than anything else, but it has the potential to become a serious threat."

The problem is found all round the coast, but is more noticeable in the North Sea because of the concentration of fishing there. It is mainly a symptom of overfishing of cod which feed on juvenile octo-

pus. With fewer cod around, more and more octopus are surviving into adulthood and breeding.

The octopus plague is causing most difficulty for the inshore lobster catchers, or "cobblers", who set their pots within 100 yards of the coastline. The danger time is when lobsters change their shells. The new shells are still soft, making their inhabitants vulnerable to attack. Deep-sea pots seem to be unaffected.

Ray Trotter, a Scarborough cobbler, said: "We are finding three or four octopus a day, whereas a few years back we might find one a week. One pot I pulled up three weeks ago had four lobsters and an octopus in it. One lobster was okay, but the other three were empty shells."

Mr Trotter believes octopuses have reduced his lobster catch by 15 to 20 per cent, a considerable loss when lobsters fetch £3.50 to £5 a lb at the quayside.

Other fishermen and shellfish merchants agree there has been a sharp drop in lobster catches, but blame it mainly on the cool summer. Barry McNally, a fish salesman on the West Pier at Scarborough, said: "Lobsters like warm water in the summer when they do most of their feeding. Boats that should be getting 120 lobsters for two days' work are coming back with no more than 50 or 60."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man drives 130 miles to cut clamp

A man took the law into his own hands when his heavily pregnant daughter had her van wheelclamped after leaving a car park in Blackpool one minute late.

Trevor Barnes drove 130 miles from Darlington, co. Durham, with a pair of bolt cutters to free his daughter Karen, 21, after clampers had demanded £50 to free the van.

Miss Barnes, who was visiting her sister, offered to pay for an extra 30 minutes, but the clampers refused. Her father said bystanders cheered when he cut off the clamp. "I was determined they wouldn't get away with it - any father would feel the same way."

Train used as ambulance

Rescuers commandeered a commuter train to take to a hospital a woman who had fallen 20ft from a bridge onto a railway line in Warwickshire.

The woman, aged 25, could not be carried up the steep embankment beside the track because of back injuries, so police stopped a train en route to Leamington Spa. British Rail said: "The passengers were not upset by the short delay and we were glad to be able to help in an emergency."

Murder charge

Alexander Jackson, 34, of Bransholme, Hull, was remanded in custody for seven days by the city's magistrates charged with the murder of Dianne Hunt, 14, whose body was found in a house in the area on Sunday.

Shotgun killing

Detectives were questioning a man and woman after Alwyn Baker, 68, a former RAF pilot, was found shot dead at his home in Hampton, Hereford and Worcester. Police were called after neighbours heard shotgun fire.

Cell hanging

An enquiry was launched after David Stewart, 17, of Honiton, Devon, was found hanging in his cell at Exeter prison. He was awaiting sentence after being convicted of criminal damage and breaching his probation order.

Stage death

An amateur actor, Keith Rawlings, 59, died in front of the audience while making his stage debut in a production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Mr Rawlings, of Coventry, is thought to have had a heart attack.

On the trot

Two mounted police officers baited traffic and then acted as outriders for a woman in labour who was being driven to hospital through rush-hour traffic in Taunton, Somerset.

Yacht found

The two-day search for the yacht *Zanzibar*, missing off Guernsey, ended when three survivors were recovered from the upturned hull. The three other crew are dead.

Cocaine haul

Five men, including one armed and carrying £31,000, were arrested when police raided a former hair salon in London's Mayfair and discovered 1kg of cocaine.

Digger crash

A man aged 40 was charged with drink-driving after allegedly crashing a six-tonne digger as he tried to load it onto a lorry in Slaughton, Sussex.

Midnight run

A naked businessman had to be rescued by firemen after falling 10ft down a rubbish chute while sleepwalking. The man, aged 36, fell down the chute in a block of flats after sleepwalking out of a hotel 50 yards away.

Lazy man about the house cooks up trouble in the kitchen

By Robin Young

THE modern married man might say he will help with the housework, but hand him a vacuum cleaner or ask him to change a nappy and he will fade from sight.

Yet when it comes to cooking, new-age man is prepared to spend more time in the kitchen than ever, according to a Henley Centre report commissioned by Asda, the supermarket group.

Researchers, who interviewed a representative sample of nearly 1,000 adults living as married couples with children, found that men spend a third more time cooking than they did in 1986.

The report says that more than a quarter of men claim they enjoy shopping for food, while nearly half

say they enjoy cooking. Four-fifths of women say, however, that they prepare more than half what is eaten and two-thirds say they do almost all the cooking.

In households where both partners are working full-time, a third of men prepare at least half the family's food. The report also suggests that about a quarter of men have become more accomplished cooks than their partners.

Yet the average man, illustrated by the cartoon, spends less than 13 hours a week helping with household chores when women average more than 34 hours of household drudgery.

The survey found that while men spend almost an hour a week cooking for pleasure, half their household work time is devoted to performing

just two tasks: shopping and washing up.

Compared with women, who spend two-fifths of their housework hours dusting, cleaning and doing general tasks, men spend only a quarter of the hours they contribute performing such tasks.

The report also found that women make up almost half the employed workforce. Not since the late 1950s have a majority of women been housewives solely.

Women working full-time spend ten hours a week more on domestic chores than their partners. Those working part-time do more than 22 extra hours - almost as many as women who do not go out to work at all. Their average difference is just over 25 hours a week.

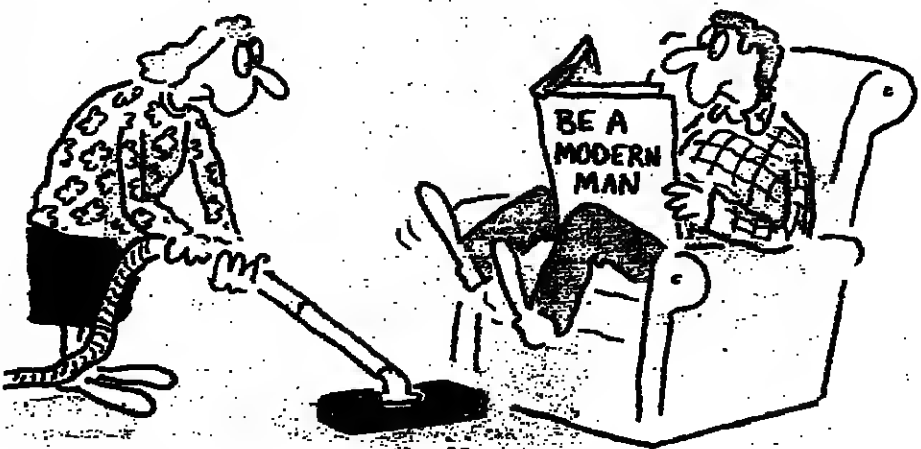
A reason for the difference, the

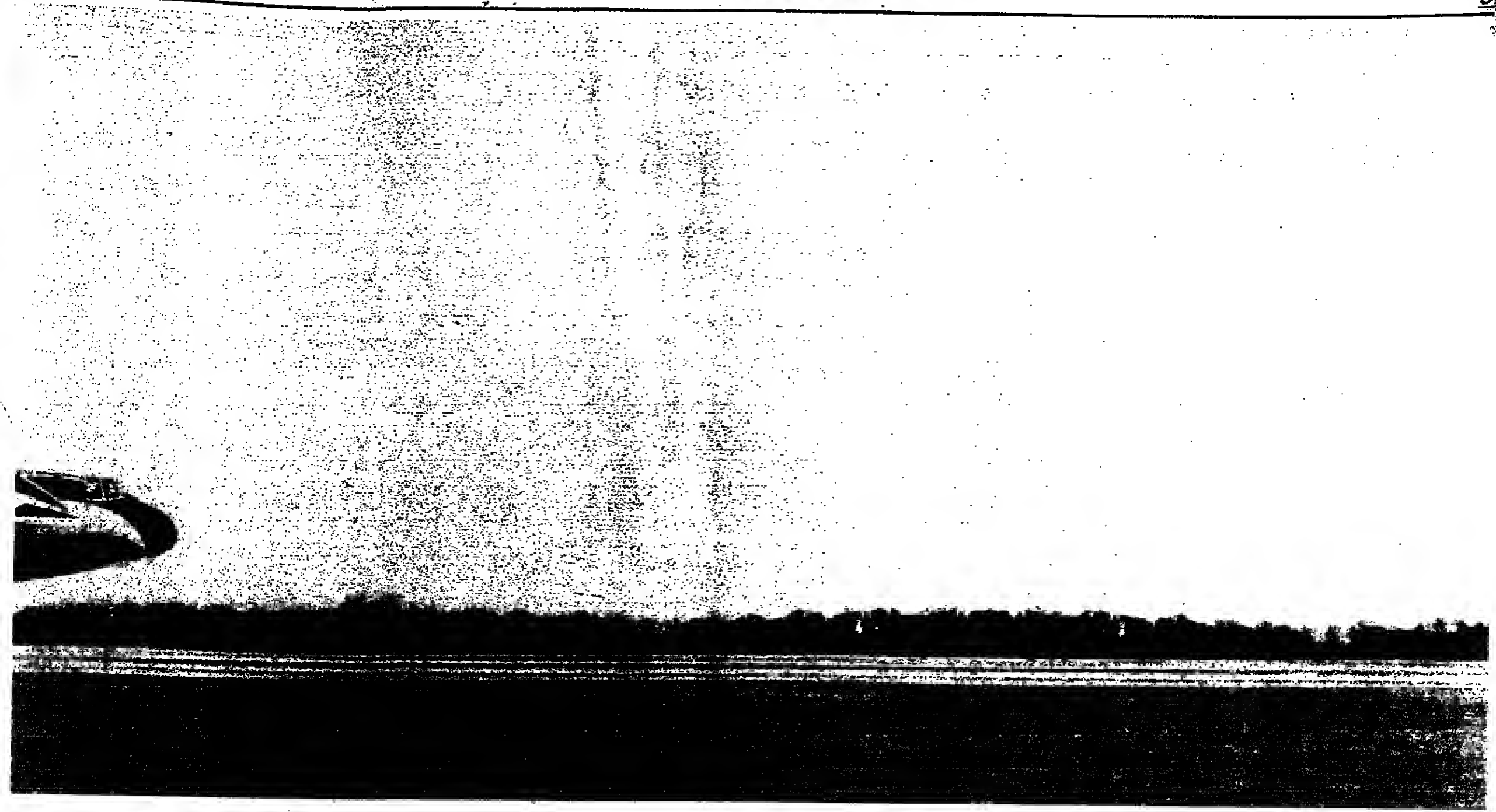
report says, is that men employed full-time have a longer working week than women, averaging four more hours a week.

The report also suggests head-to-break cultural habits are a contributing factor. Even where both partners work full-time, a quarter of women still believe the man's career should take priority.

It says the difference is perpetuated partly because girls, not boys, are taught to cook, iron and clean from an early age. The report cites a National Food Alliance survey which found that while 59 per cent of girls aged 12 to 15 knew how to make an apple pie, only 28 per cent of boys of the same age did.

□ The Asda Report 2, Working Mothers and Time (The Henley Centre, £50, 071-724 6177)





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Airline Good
Enough To Carry
The British
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Ashdown insists policies on local democracy set apart Lib Dems from rivals

Liberal Democrats launch campaign to rebuild civic spirit

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

AMBITIOUS plans to rebuild the civic spirit in Britain, by active measures to encourage the creation of local and workplace communities, were outlined yesterday by Paddy Ashdown, at the heart of a programme designed to make the Liberal Democrats the political party of the twenty-first century.

In a new policy document issued five days before its annual conference in Torquay, Mr Ashdown claimed that only his party had the vision and the proposals to unlock the potential of the British people. Promising to "reinvent democracy" by providing open and participatory government, *Facing up to the Future* attempts to demolish claims by both Labour and Tories that they are the parties of freedom, opportunity and social justice.

With the Liberal Democrats approaching their conference in good heart after two by-election victories this year, Mr Ashdown said: "This year we have proved ourselves in the battle for votes: now we must win the battle of ideas."

The document, drawn up by a committee under Mr Ashdown, sets out a broad statement of principles that will provide the framework for future policy statements.

Party leaders insist it is not a manifesto, but it contains several policy departures. It proposes measures to enhance public consent for taxation by explaining more openly to the public how money raised in taxation is spent, and it backs the idea of allocating specific tax increases to particular areas of expenditure, such as education.

It proposes a set of emergency measures to tackle poverty and to heal the rifts in society, including the provision of adequate levels of income support, pensions, housing,

health and community care, and a more progressive system of income and inheritance tax. It proposes increased investment in social services, funded if necessary through tax increases.

Outlining proposals to unlock the spirit of community, the paper states: "Liberal Democrats aim to create a society in which individuals are free to realise their own potential and shape their own success. We do not view individuals in isolation."

"We know that communities form an essential part of the human experience. Successful individuals need thriving communities."

"But equally strong communities can only be formed from self-reliant individuals." It therefore proposes decentralisation of power, and control

CONFERENCE COUNTDOWN

of at least a third of government spending to Scottish and Welsh parliaments, the regions, local authorities and a new network of neighbourhood councils.

The paper also proposes measures to stimulate local and regional economies through development and enterprise agencies, and providing encouragement and support for small businesses.

To build communities of friends and colleagues sharing common interests, it promises active help for pressure groups, trade unions, the churches, universities and the media. It suggests planning, transport, housing and employment policies that can create communities to which people can relate and find the jobs, services and facilities they need. The document also

promotes employee participation and profit sharing in firms.

Setting out the challenges facing the country, the paper says that in Britain people vote out of fear rather than hope, and the state fails to mobilise the talents of the people. Communities have broken down and the problems of racial discrimination, inequalities for women, a developing underclass and increasing demands on welfare spending still exist.

Mr Ashdown sees his party's role as allowing people to develop their talents, nurtured by government, but not constricted by it. "Look where Britain has succeeded — did governments do it?" Mr Ashdown asked.

"Did governments invent the spinning-jenny, build our manufacturing base, design our best-selling cars, discover DNA or win the World Cup? No, people did. The government's job is to bring initiative, talent and determination out."

At Westminster yesterday, he said the new Liberal Democrat agenda was set apart from the other main parties. In contrast to Labour it was strongly pro-enterprise and competition, and was addressing the challenges of the environment and the new world order.

On the economy the document says the aim should be the creation and preservation of wealth in all its forms: human, environmental and material. It suggests a redefinition of the means by which economic success is measured.

GDP calculations should include measurements of pollution and resource depletion, to create sustainable national income.

Diary, page 16
Letters, page 17



Paddy Ashdown yesterday explaining his party's ambition to reinvent democracy

Common themes mask differences between parties

Spot the difference between these two statements: "For too long British society has tolerated unacceptable levels of inequality and discrimination", and "Inequalities are not necessarily unjust, but those which are should be reduced and where possible eliminated."

The former statement sounds more left wing, more egalitarian, but actually comes from the Liberal Democrats' new statement of policy, *Facing up to the Future*. The latter is from the first discussion document of Labour's commission on social justice. Much of their analysis is interchangeable.

Highlighting these similarities is not meant to suggest some secret Lab-Lib agenda as prelude to a pact — which Labour leftwingers allege in criticism of the party's modernisers. Lab-Liberty in the sense of deals over seats or the like is not a serious prospect this

side of a general election. Admittedly, councillors from both parties are co-operating in many county authorities, pluralism in practice as Paddy Ashdown describes it.

Nationally, however, neither party is in the mood to co-operate, apart from the occasional informal meeting. Indeed, in some inner-city areas such as east London, they are vehemently opposed to each other.

The real interest in the comparison of the two papers is more fundamental: both documents reflect a similar analysis of what is wrong with Britain. The Liberal Democrat paper stresses difficulties created by declining competitiveness and high structural unemployment and highlights the need for flexible employment patterns while protecting workers' rights, just as recent Labour statements have.

Mr Ashdown's central points of creating a spirit of community and strengthening individual opportunity echo

exactly speeches by Labour modernisers such as Gordon Brown and Tony Blair. There is nothing sinister in this: they are sensible and electorally attractive themes.

Naturally there are differences, notably that Labour's modernisers do not yet speak for the party as a whole. Moreover, the Liberal Democrats have, by virtue of their smaller size, greater freedom to manoeuvre. They can, for example, be self-consciously radical about recasting the tax and benefit system.

Party leaders argued yesterday that the Liberal Democrats could offer a more balanced approach than either the Tories or Labour. The paper urges both road pricing and higher investment in public transport. Yet it has the freedom of a party whose ideas are not scrutinised as a potential party of government.

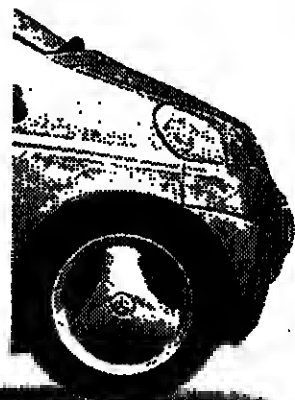
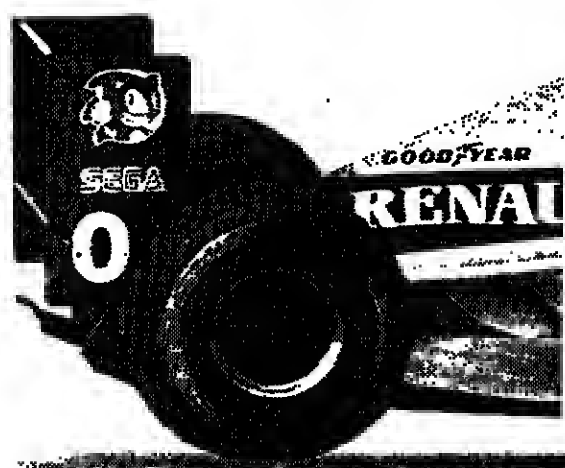
Mr Ashdown was at pains to identify differences from Labour, such as a greater emphasis on enterprise, competition and breaking up monopolies, on being anti-corporatist and opposing vested interests, having a clearer international approach and putting a higher priority on the environment.

The real differences are that Labour is still a party of the unions, the big cities and the public sector, while the Liberal Democrats are a party of the provinces, local councils and the voluntary sector. These contrasts of origin and perspective overshadow the convergence of underlying programmes shown by the two documents.

No one attending either of the forthcoming conferences could confuse the parties. There might be a common core of ideas about what a left-of-centre party should advocate in the 1990s, but that is not going to mean a common platform, let alone an alliance.

PETER RIDDELL

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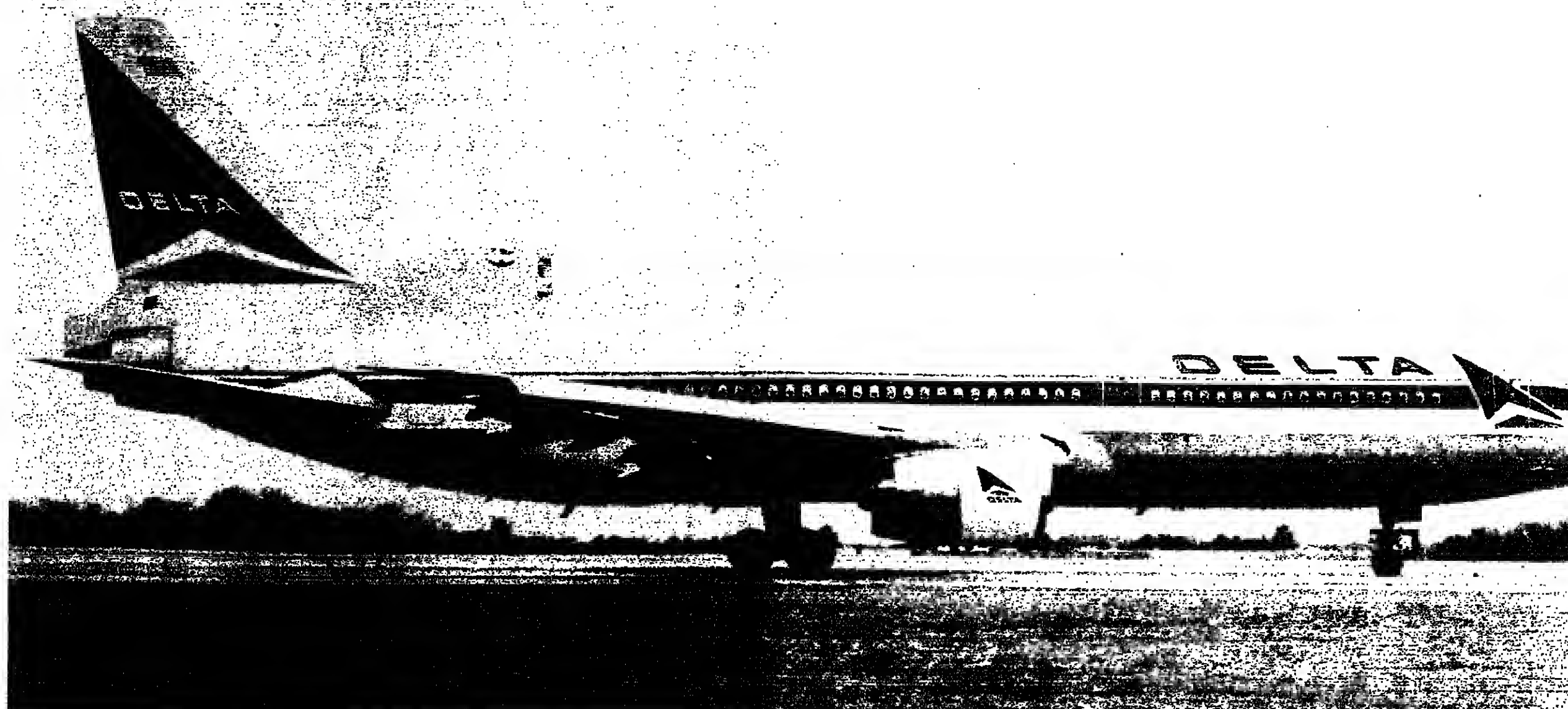
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Log-cabin logistics found kindred spirit in longtime foes



Holst: said atmosphere at meeting was serene

TERJE Rod Larsen, the academic who was the go-between who masterminded the "Norway channel" — nine months of secret talks in Norwegian mansions and log cabins — said: "We must have seemed like a bunch of eccentrics when we set it up and looking back the chances of success didn't seem great at the time. But I knew it was the only way to do it."

The architects of the "back channel" convinced the state and the public acrimony of the Washington peace talks would never yield results — were Yossi Beilin, Israel's deputy foreign minister, and Abu Ala the PLO's financial chief. These two men both found a kindred spirit in Mr Larsen, the director of EFAO, a trade union research organisation, had extensive contacts with both the Israel Labour Party and the Palestinians. Norway was viewed favourably by both sides as a neutral facilitator.

"The main idea was that Israel should talk to its enemies and that meant the PLO," said Mr Beilin, a rising star in Labour's ranks and a close confidant of Shimon Peres, the foreign minister. Abu Ala, the man who knew best the parlous state of the PLO's finances and its need to reach an accommodation with Israel, was also seeking a way to peace when he met Mr Larsen, who offered to help.

So the Norway channel was born and in January this year the first meeting took place. Mona Juul, a diplomat and Mr Larsen's wife, was also a key figure. The team's unlikely logistics chief was Evan Aas, the trainer of the Norwegian women's speed-skating team and a FAFO researcher. He co-ordinated the discreet comings and goings on scheduled flights and drove the visitors to Borregaard, a country mansion.

At Borregaard Abu Ala was joined by Yair Hirschfeld, an Israeli professor of politics. He had been sent by Mr Beilin and



Jane Corbin charts the secret meetings that led to this week's signing of a Middle East peace accord in Washington

assured Abu Ala that although well-connected he had no official position and therefore a certain freedom in negotiations. Abu Ala reveals they all took an important decision from the start never to look back.

By the end of a long weekend at Borregaard they had hammered out a draft document based on three principles: "graduality", the gradual assumption of power by the Palestinians and gradual lessening of control by the Israelis; independence for Gaza; and detailed co-operation especially on economic development.

By May Abu Ala wanted the Israelis to show their commitment to the secret talks by sending a high-ranking official to Norway

and Uriel Savir, the director-general of the foreign ministry and a confidant of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, met Abu Ala at the Thomas Heftist villa outside Oslo. It was a tense moment and Mr Larsen deliberately defused it with a most undiplomatic introduction: "Here is your public enemy number one," he told Mr Savir.

Over the next three months the relationship that developed between Abu Ala, a man in his sixties and a tough and seasoned negotiator, and Mr Savir, the urbane diplomat, was fascinating to watch. Mr Larsen describes it as "passionate respect" and Mr Savir himself believed right from the start he was confronting a man

who could deliver. As the bargaining reached its climax at the Halvorsbole Hotel, the Palestinians demanded a whole new raft of concessions. The Israelis refused. Abu Ala resigned on the spot and Mr Savir told the gathering it was the end.

Mr Hirschfeld burst into tears and Mr Larsen, the only time he stepped outside his strictly defined role as a facilitator, pleaded with both sides to resume the dialogue. By the early hours of August 20 they were ready to initial the Document of Principles, the result of nine months of work and 14 meetings in Norway.

Mr Peres was in Oslo on pre-arranged official visit. His host, Johan Joergen Holst, the foreign minister, who was himself involved in the Norway channel, entertained the Israelis at an official banquet at the Oslo Plaza hotel while just yards away the secret Israeli and PLO groups argued over the final points. Then the Norwegian secret service

smuggled them out of the hotel to the government guest house where Mr Peres was waiting alone.

Mr Holst describes the atmosphere as serene: "everyone had a sense that history was being made". Mr Savir initiated the document for Israel and Abu Ala for the PLO. They all drank champagne.

Once the deal was made public the final hurdle remained: mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO. Last Wednesday, as Jewish settlers stormed the Knesset and masked Hamas youths brandishing guns rampaged through Gaza, the Norway channel met in secret in the rarefied atmosphere of the Hotel Bristol in Paris to agree the wording of the letters Mr Rabin and Yasser Arafat would sign. I was in the hotel that night and finally at 5am an exhausted Mr Savir told me it was done.

Jane Corbin is a correspondent for Panorama

Diary, page 16

Walls of fear and distrust begin slowly to crumble

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERICHO

WHEN PLO leader Yasser Arafat makes his triumphant return to this sleepy West Bank town, he will probably discover that the state he plans to build has already begun spreading its roots in the fertile soil.

Less than 24 hours after just about every adult and child crammed into the town's square for the biggest street party Jericho has ever thrown, many of the 15,000 residents were hard at work yesterday in anticipation of Palestinian self-rule, which comes into effect here in a month.

JERICHO

The first and still most celebrated record of an event in the long history of the ancient town took place when Joshua's Israelites blew their rams' horns and brought its walls tumbling to the ground. Since then Jericho, in a strategic position at the mouth of the Dead Sea, has seen waves of conquerors come and go, but has altered little since then.

At the PLO chief's residence, a three-floor mansion complete with swimming pool and gaudy fittings, work on the interior was being finished ahead of Mr Arafat's arrival, which could be within ten weeks.

At the unofficial headquarters of Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction loyal to Mr Arafat and the peace accord he completed with Israel, the entire contents of the ground-floor office were piled on the pavement yesterday. Unlike the old days, when the sight of furniture on the street would have indicated a raid by Israeli security forces, this time it was painters and decorators giving the building a facelift for the day when the underground guerrilla group plans to relaunch itself as Palestine's ruling political party.

"I only got out of an Israeli jail 20 days ago, accused only of supporting Fatah," said Abdel Karim Sidr, a leading PLO figure in Jericho who was still smarting over the £1,400 fine he had to pay the Israeli military authorities. "Now everything has changed. The Israelis contact me every day to work out arrangements for our demonstrations and co-ordinate other affairs."

Under the agreement

signed in Washington, Israel will next month hand over to Palestinians in Jericho responsibility for education and culture, health, social welfare, direct taxation and tourism, and within four months should turn over security to a Palestinian police force.

Although only one trained Palestinian police officer, who has recently completed a course in Jordan, could be found in the town, Jericho's businessmen and entrepreneurs have been less slow to respond to the political upheaval taking place.

Buoyed by the town's overnight fame and the sudden influx of journalists and foreign tourists, the local economy is experiencing a boom. At Jericho's humble guest house, the Hisham Palace hotel, the proprietor has trebled his rates, and the town's open-air restaurants have also put up their prices.

Assad Shawa, a local businessman who owns a small textile factory, already has visions of Jericho becoming an important conduit for goods and services into Israel and neighbouring Jordan. Earlier this week his workers were completing an order for 500 interior wall panels for the Palestinian flag. Yesterday they were making shirts for the Israeli consumer market.

But the euphoric mood has not captured everyone's imagination, and Mr Arafat and his new-found Israeli allies will still have to satisfy those unimpressed by the economic or political benefits of his compromise deal.

Umm Mohammed al-Yassin said she would not believe that Israel had really changed its policies until she saw evidence. A survivor from the village of Deir Yassin, a Palestinian community just outside Jerusalem where more than 250 people were killed in 1948 during a raid by Jewish extremists, she has never forgiven her adversaries.

"Nobody will ever forget the suffering and experiences from Deir Yassin," said the middle-aged housewife, who was four years old when her father was fatally injured in the attack and her family fled to Jericho. "I want real peace with the Israelis. But if you give me the choice of staying here or returning to my land, I would go back to Deir Yassin."



Old enemies: a print dated 1813 depicts Joshua's Israelites bringing down the walls of Jericho by blowing ram's horns

Arafat sheds rebel image

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

YASSIR Arafat planned to return to United Nations headquarters in New York yesterday for the first time since, sporting a holster, he swaggered into the general assembly 19 years ago and announced: "I have come bearing an olive branch in one hand and a freedom fighter's gun in the other."

Mr Arafat is recognised as a head of state by many of the 184 UN members, and the PLO's observer mission now goes under the name "Palestine", but the United States has consistently refused to grant him a visa to attend the

general assembly — the last time he wanted to address members, in 1988, they had perforce to move to Geneva.

Mr Arafat's schedule this time includes no grand

UNITED NATIONS

speeches. Instead he was having a private meeting late in the day with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general who, when he was an Egyptian minister, helped negotiate the Camp David peace accord between Israel and Egypt. The two men were expected to discuss what role the UN could play in implementing the Israeli-Palestinian accord.

Although the UN may be called on to provide election monitors, the main focus of its effort will be to channel economic aid to the parts of the Israeli-occupied territories to be granted self-rule.

Dr Boutros Ghali has already established a special task force at the request of Israel and the PLO to drum up aid for Jericho and the Gaza Strip. It includes Jan Eliasson, the UN aid supreme; James Jonah, the UN official in charge of the Middle East; Gustave Speth, head of the UN Relief and Works Agency in the occupied territories; James Grant of the UN Children's Fund and Chinmaya Gharekhan, the UN observer at the Middle East peace talks.

Husain jumps on board the peace bandwagon

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

KING Husain's determination to end Jordan's isolation was demonstrated by the speed of Amman's move yesterday to jump on the peace wagon and initial its own agenda for talks with Israel.

The move was also one of the biggest gambles in the king's turbulent 40-year reign. Islamic fundamentalists opposed to the decision have the opportunity in November, at Jordan's first multi-party elections since 1956, to show the strength of feeling against it in a country where nearly 70 per cent of the population is Palestinian.

Although Jordan has done nothing to disguise its anger at the secrecy with which the deal between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel was done behind its

back, it has been the first of the frontline Arab states to swallow its pride and press ahead with attempts to secure a comprehensive peace of its own. "It could happen within two years. I do not think it should take longer than that," Jawad al-Anani, a minister of

JORDAN

state at the prime minister's office in Amman, predicted.

According to the new Israeli-Jordanian agreement, the two sides will work towards solving the issue of the more than a million Palestinian refugees in Jordan "in accordance with international law". Jordan hopes that many of the refugees will be repatriated and that it will be offered compensation for those it has had to care for.

While the two sides are still

negotiating, the new agenda commits them to refrain from harming each other's security and pledges possible future co-operation in such areas as water, energy, labour, health and education.

With such a high percentage of Palestinian subjects, King Husain has had to avoid being seen to run ahead of the Palestinians. He has also had to keep a wary eye on Syria, with whom he has had trouble in the past.

The Jordanian-Israeli agenda sets out a framework of issues that the two sides agree on for an eventual treaty based on United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israel to withdraw from occupied territories in exchange for peace. In terms of the final deal already agreed, Israel has offered to pull back from two small uninhabited strips of land,

one near the Dead Sea and the other in northern Jordan, which it seized when Palestinian guerrillas attacked the Jewish state across the Jordan border after the 1967 war.

In addition to confirming the terms of an eventual peace, the king will be looking



Husain: seeking his own peace dividend

Morocco visited by Rabin in first step to charm Muslims

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

LAUNCHING Israel's new initiative to break down the wall of Arab and Muslim suspicion that has surrounded it since its creation in 1948, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, said upon his unannounced arrival in Rabat: "Following the mutual recognition and the signing of the agreement with the PLO in Washington, we hope and believe it is possible to widen relations among Arab states and the Arab world."

Israeli officials said that the initial aim would be to secure relations with North African and Gulf states which were geographically distanced from the immediate border regions with Israel. The Arab boycott of Israel has already begun to break down significantly in the Gulf.

Mr Rabin's surprise visit to Morocco fuelled optimism that new vistas of co-operation with Arab and Muslim countries were opening. Officials said Tunisia was poised to recognise Israel soon after Morocco, and there were indications that Mauritania, Arab Gulf states and Pakistan, Indonesia and Malaysia were moving towards ties.

Mr Rabin arrived in Morocco in a blaze of publicity, in contrast to his last visit in 1976 when he was forced to travel incognito, disguised in a wig and spectacles.

He and his foreign minister, Shimon Peres, were whisked away to the seaside palace of King Hassan who, Mr Rabin said, had for two decades been a bridge to Arab-Israeli relations.

The king's normally secret contacts with Israel, vilified by

hardliners in the Arab world, have been facilitated by the large number of Moroccan Jewish immigrants in Israel, now estimated at more than 500,000. Israel television reported that an Israeli economic delegation led by Rafi Edri, the deputy Knesset Speaker, a Moroccan-born Jew, would soon go to Morocco. King Hassan, now pushing for clos-

ARAB WORLD

er contacts with the European Community, was an important go-between in the complex arrangements setting up the visit of President Sadat of Egypt to Jerusalem in November 1977. Yesterday Mr Rabin paid tribute to the king's past role as a go-between. He said that in 1977 the Arab monarch had "laid a stone on the long road to peace that resulted in peace with Egypt."

Last July the secret ties between the two states were strengthened when Arye Deri, a former Israeli interior minister, visited Morocco unofficially to arrange the repatriation of the bodies of 22 Jewish emigrants drowned when their ship capsized off the Moroccan coast in 1961.

However, the Kuwaiti daily *Al-Anbassa* carried an editorial headlined "Shalom Rahbi Arafat", indicating its contempt for the PLO leader, still hated for his support of Iraq during the Gulf crisis. "The traitor of the cause saw the utmost victory in reaching the White House lawn," it said.

Logjam breaks, page 1
Letters, page 17

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Shevardnadze aims for full power in walkout

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN
IN MOSCOW

EDUARD Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, resigned yesterday as part of his struggle to force parliament to give him emergency powers. After appeals from crowds of supporters, he later said that he might stay on if parliament suspended itself for three months and agreed to his demands.

Mr Shevardnadze called for the state of emergency in order to deal with rebel supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the deposed president, who have taken control of a large area of west Georgia. The former Soviet foreign minister also hopes to bring to heel anarchy paramilitary groups on the government side responsible for a collapse in law and order.

For a few days the republic had seemed set for a more peaceful future, after a Russian-negotiated ceasefire in the autonomous Georgian republic of Abkhazia.

Mr Shevardnadze has threatened to resign before in the face of parliamentary intransigence, but

■ Georgia's leader stormed out of parliament and said he would resign. It was another gamble in his bid for full authority to crush rebellion

witnesses yesterday said that the normally calm and reserved 65-year-old leader "seemed to go completely crazy" when Zviad Yosseliani, a nationalist paramilitary commander, accused him of acting like a Communist boss.

Red in the face, Mr Shevardnadze banged his fists on the podium and launched into a tirade against the deputies. "From this point you may consider that I resign, lay down my authority," he shouted. "It is impossible to go on working like this. Every deputy is trying to pull the wagon in a different direction."

Evidently shocked, the deputies then voted by 141 votes to none, with one abstention, to reject the resignation. However, Mr Shevardnadze sent back a note saying: "I have made my decision. Parliament's decision was late."

A key voice among those calling for him to stay was the Georgian Orthodox Patriarch, Ilia II, who addressed a crowd outside Mr Shevardnadze's office. The support of General Gia Karkarishvili, the defence minister, was also vital.

The general view has been that, if Mr Shevardnadze went, Georgia would be plunged into chaos. Ethnic rebels now control most of the autonomous regions of Abkhazia and Ossetia, and in recent days, a renewed rebellion of "Zviadists", supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the deposed president, have seized most of the west Georgian region of Mingrelia.

Georgia is full of military bands loyal to rival chiefs. The largest of these is the Mkhedroni, or cavaliers, led by Mr Yosseliani who, as yesterday's debate made clear, is emerging as Mr Shevardnadze's

main rival. Mr Yosseliani's forces played a key role in the 1991 coup which overthrew Mr Gamsakhurdia and brought Mr Shevardnadze to power.

In recent months, however, Mr Shevardnadze has made clear his determination to curb paramilitary groups, and it is expected that if given emergency powers he will use them to this end. Mr Yosseliani's radical nationalist followers have also been unhappy with Mr Shevardnadze's acceptance of the Abkhazian ceasefire.

The odious behaviour of Mr Yosseliani's men in west Georgia has been a key reason for the series of pro-Gamsakhurdia revolts there. Soldiers and deserters have also been mainly responsible for a catastrophic rise in armed crimes throughout Georgia, which last month claimed the life of Fred Woodruff, the CIA station chief.

Many soldiers are the dregs of Tbilisi, and several commanders emerged from the underworld. Mr Yosseliani himself served several years in jail under Soviet rule for bank robbery.



Shevardnadze hit podium with his fists before deciding to resign

Labour win in Norway fails to allay EC fears

FROM TONY SAMSTAG IN OSLO

AS THE minority Labour government of Gro Harlem Brundtland yesterday celebrated its victory in Norway's parliamentary elections, the no less jubilant agrarian Centre Party was preparing for what Anne Enger Lahnstein, its leader, predicted would be "hand-to-hand combat" over the country's application for European Community membership.

Even the European Economic Area (EEA) agreement, under which non-member countries do business with the EC, is anathema to most Norwegian farmers. Their party has now almost trebled its representation in the 165-member Storting (parliament), to 31 seats, largely as a result of its anti-Community campaign. In doing so it has displaced the Conservative Party as Norway's second largest.

Public opinion has been running roughly two-to-one against EC membership for some months, and overall support for joining is now thought to be at its lowest level since the traumatic referendum of 1972, in which a previous application to join was narrowly overturned at the last minute.

Labour's re-election, with 67 seats, was a function of Mrs Brundtland's personal popularity and not an endorsement of her long-delayed decision, less than a year ago, to apply to join the Community. Her government's application is supported by the Conservative opposition, but both parties are seriously split over the issue, and it is unlikely that MPs will interpret the election result as a mandate to pursue the application, particularly in view of the increase in support for the Centre Party.

Even if a new referendum were to return a positive decision, the Storting would still have to approve the

application by a 75 per cent majority, including the Centre Party. 74 MPs are now committed to opposing membership, with 90 in favour, far fewer than would be required.

As voting ended on Monday, some politicians and journalists, even those most committed to Europe, were suggesting for the first time that plans for a new referendum might as well be dropped altogether. Mrs Brundtland insists that negotiations with Brussels will continue, but success now looks unlikely.

Even Labour's natural allies in the Storting, the 13 MPs of the Socialist Left Party, are unanimously opposed to membership. Without a drastic change in parliamentary and public opinion, it would take a far more committed idealist than the pragmatic Mrs Brundtland to force the issue.

Quite apart from opposition to the EC, and a potentially explosive commitment to revoking the EEA agreement, the Centre Party is likely to be a powerful force for reaction in other areas. Norwegian farmers are already among the most ruthlessly protected in the West and the Norwegian consumer the most restricted in choice of food. The Centre Party will push for more protection and even fewer imports. It will also resist any attempts to ease Norway's draconian restrictions on alcohol sales.

Despite a commitment to green issues in its literature, the party is also unlikely to do much to repair the damage to the nation's image caused by its resumption of commercial whaling this year. On the contrary: Norwegian farmers are quick to exterminate wolves, birds of prey and other perceived threats to livestock, and even the most primeval forest is considered a crop to be harvested like any other.



Gro Harlem Brundtland, who has led her Labour Party back into power in Norway, but with the anti-EC Centre Party of farmers stronger than ever

Ranks closed as Kohl wheels to the right

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

Germany yesterday embarked on a year-long election campaign that will test the nerves of even the most battle-hardened of Bonn politicians. Wolfgang Schäuble, parliamentary leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), made plain in a fighting speech in Berlin that the party pitch in almost 20 local, regional, national and European elections next year would be based on patriotism, traditional German values and law and order.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, set out the election markers on Monday, and in openly backing a deeply traditional CDU politician, Dr Steffen Heilmann, for the post of German president he emphasised that a return to classic conservative virtues was the only way of winning over the voters. However, this shift to the right did not mean that the CDU was about to strike up a coalition with neo-Nazi sympathisers or ultra-nationalists such as the Republican Party.

That was explicitly ruled out in speeches at the CDU party congress in Berlin yesterday. "We have to convince people that you can only demand civic rights if you are prepared to take on civic responsibilities," said Herr Schäuble.

The reasoning is simple: for most of 1994, with its crowded election schedule, the German economy will be fragile at best. The ruling CDU could thus choose either to ignore or play down the economy and concentrate on foreign policy. Or it could seek to make a virtue out of crisis and declare hard work and belt-tightening a patriotic duty.

The second option has been chosen, but it is unclear whether it will make a big enough impact in east Germany, where the CDU has most votes to lose. The chancellor has thus been using the congress to address the fears of the German population.

He has already placed a tough right-winger in the post of interior minister, and a stronger police force — perhaps reinforced with new powers to bug the apartments of suspected drug dealers or racketeers — is being offered to those worried about the rise of crime in German cities.

Herr Kohl toned down some of the ruder remarks about the Social Democrats written into his opening speech, but the party faithful made up for it yesterday with a strong attack on the SPD.

The 1994 election campaign has thus got under way, and even some of the grumbling rebels on the liberal fringes of the party have been silenced. For the next 13 months, until the general election in October, the CDU is closing ranks.

The nagging question — what happens if Herr Kohl stumbles and is forced into a humiliating new coalition with the Social Democrats — remained unspoken yesterday. All the doubts about the leader, chancellor for the past 11 years, and party chairman for 20, have been officially banished.

Left Bank's revisionists nail seductive shrink to the couch

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

TIMES have been hard lately for the intellectual titans of postwar France as one after the other they have bitten the posthumous dust. Sartre, we learnt, liked to scribble his *pensées* while high on speed; Louis Althusser, the communist philosopher, murdered his wife, though what really discredited him was news that he had not read his Marx.

This autumn the revisionist finger has swung round to Jacques Lacan, the iconoclast psychiatrist whose obscure interpretation of Freud became gospel for the Left Bank. Lacan, who died in 1981 at 80, is now being cast as a money-grubbing, womanising liar whose system was based on an intellectual fraud. "Was Lacan a charlatan?" asked *Le Point*, a news magazine, hedging its bets. *Le Nouvel Observateur*, bible of the Left Bank, wondered: "Should Lacan be burnt?"

Lacan, who entered the elite as Picasso's doctor, was always controversial. He was notorious for his arrogance and "brilliantly subversive" behaviour, such as abusing his patients and cutting off sessions after only minutes, a habit which had him banned as a teacher by the Interna-

tional Psychiatric Association. But his admirers put this down to his genius.

In the new climate, intellectuals suggest that Lacan may have been pulling their legs all along and are agreeing with his foreign enemies in the psychiatric wars that his post-structuralist abstractions may simply have been mumbo-jumbo. They are helped by Elisabeth Roudinesco, a psychiatric historian, which paints him as even more odious and deceitful than previously thought. She calculates that in the 1970s he was consulting ten patients per



Giroud: Lacan was her psychiatrist

hour simultaneously, running from one to the other, often muddling up their cases, for eight hours a day, five days a week. This enabled "His Majesty", as she calls him, to clock up about £500,000 a year.

Mme Roudinesco makes much of his career as a seducer, beginning with the time when he made his mistress type his thesis. Françoise Giroud, the editor and former minister who underwent long psychoanalysis with Lacan, confirmed his powers this week, calling him a "devil" irresistible to women.

The debate over Lacan is unlikely to shake the faith of the 34 competing groups and schools that claim they are the true inheritors of Lacanism. For these, the relics of the *Matine Pensée* are objects of such reverence that his old brown velvet consulting couch brought over £10,000 recently. For a glimpse of his enduring influence, look at the lonely hearts advertisements in the *Nouvel Observateur*, riddled with his psychoanalytical idiom. One Lacanesque entry this week says: "Young businesswoman too busy to take care of her 'me' seeks businessman to take care of his 'you'."

British base shelled before new ceasefire

BY TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND MICHAEL EVANS

A NEW ceasefire between the Muslims and Croats in Bosnia was announced yesterday, although fighting between the two sides continued to block the main supply route to the centre of the country.

Five mortar rounds fired by Croat forces hit the British base at Gornji Vakuf in central Bosnia. There were no casualties.

Jeremy Hanley, armed forces minister, arrived in the region to visit the British troops, accompanied by Lieutenant General Sir John Wilsey, commander of UK land forces.

The next British battalion group is already training for winter deployment in Bosnia. Based on the 1st Battalion The Coldstream Guards, the new unit will arrive in Bosnia in early November to replace the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said on a visit to Australia that British troops would remain in Bosnia as long as they could do a useful job. He warned that another winter war would kill thousands of people but would lead to victory for no one.

Yesterday's ceasefire was agreed between President Izetbegovic, the leader of the

Bosnian government, and President Tudjman of Croatia at a meeting in Geneva.

However, the main concern was a renewed war between Serbs and Croats, as fighting continued in the Serb-held enclave of Krajina in Croatia.

As UN officials continued negotiations in Zagreb and in Knin, the Krajina capital, Serb forces shot down a Croatian MiG 21. Croatian government sources confirmed that the fighter aircraft had been shot down after a bombing run in northern Krajina.

Under the terms of a proposed Krajina ceasefire the Croats are asked to retreat from the areas they have taken since last week. Serbs are sceptical that the Croats will do this since the Croats agreed to pull back from territory they had seized in January and then re-occupied.

Two baby girls suffering from congenital heart disease were among 16 people evacuated from Zenica in central Bosnia for hospital treatment abroad. They were the first group to leave mainly Muslim central Bosnia. Previously it had proved impossible to negotiate safe passage for those needing emergency treatment through the various front lines to Sarajevo airport.

Peking releases dissident in ploy to stage Olympics

FROM JONATHAN MITSKY
EAST ASIA EDITOR
IN HONG KONG

IN A transparent effort to secure the Olympic Games in 2000, Peking has released Wei Jingsheng, its most famous political prisoner.

Mr Wei, 42, received a 15-year sentence as a counter-revolutionary and seller of military secrets to foreigners in October 1979. The so-called secrets, about China's invasion of Vietnam, had already appeared on television, but Mr Wei's real crime was that in 1978-79 at Peking's short-lived Democracy Wall, and perhaps before any other modern dissident, he blamed the "fascist" Communist Party for China's backwardness and questioned the legitimacy of Deng Xiaoping as paramount leader.

The son of a minor party official, Mr Wei had been shocked while travelling through China as a Red Guard to see people too poor to wear clothes. He thought of the local officials as "comrades-in-arms of my father, and I seethed with anger."

He also discovered that millions, starving to death in the early 1960s because of Mao's policies, had exchanged their children with others for food. "Now I could see why the peasants had come to hate communism," he said.

Yesterday, without the usual emphasis on the former prisoner's contrition, a spokeswoman at the justice ministry said simply that because he had obeyed prison regulations Mr Wei—television yesterday showed him looking heavier than the gaunt, shaven-headed defendant before the court in 1979—was being released six months early.

This is a standard Chinese manoeuvre—political prisoners released to impress an international audience—and no one's release has been more steadily demanded internationally than Mr Wei's. They are invariably set free not long before the statutory end of their sentences.

Christine Loh, a member of Hong Kong's Legislative Council, commented: "Except that I am delighted he's out, there is nothing good here. He was innocent in the first place and he is being released because China is desperate to get the Olympics."

"It is always good news when someone is released," said Robin Munro, of Asia Watch, the international human rights organisation. But they leave it until the last moment. They couldn't even parole him: as they might have three or four years ago when it might have meant something. Who do they think they're fooling, using him as currency like this?

"And how about the 1,000 political prisoners from Tiananmen? There's a marine biologist, Chen Lantao, doing

■ For 14 years China ignored Western pleas to free its leading political prisoner. Olympic ambitions have given him liberty but thousands remain in captivity

18 years right now in Shandong province for speaking against the army after Tiananmen."

It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance and the perceived danger to the regime of Mr Wei. Mr Deng is reported to have demanded to be kept informed about him. The International Olympic Committee is voting on September 23 on the site of the 2000 games and, although Sydney looks like the winner, the Chinese are pulling out every stop. Mr Wei, in their judgment, is one of the biggest.

In 1978-79, when Mr Deng, recently released from his Maoist internal exile was at the height of his reformist fame, Mr Wei wrote in a series of widely read pamphlets, that "the people should ensure that Deng Xiaoping does not degenerate into a dictator... is your Deng's occupation based on any kind of legality... Only by being elected by the people can the leadership gain their voluntary co-operation".

He accused Mr Deng of "flattering Mao's ghost" and of being "unable to comprehend the utter misery of the people".

More daringly still, Mr Wei blamed China's backwardness on "disasters caused by the autocratic rulers, by fascism under a Marxist-Leninist

quiring about Mr Wei that he refused to admit his guilt, but yesterday the official statement declared that after his years of "humane treatment" Mr Wei told his guards that he was leaving prison "happy and healthy".

The efforts to win the Olympics may not have been helped by the recent meteoric success of China's middle-distance women runners, which has raised protests and allegations of drug use in the West. "Drugs," said Joan Allison, manager of Britain's national track and field squad, flatly. Tom McNab, the squad's former coach, recalls the East European scandals. An American runner burst into tears after finishing fifth behind Wang Junxia at the world championships last month, and spoke of "something illicit", while Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway, whose record fell to Wang, said: "One thing for sure... she's certainly not eating porridge."

One would expect Wang's coach, Ma Zhenren, who comes from her province of Liaoning in "the northeast, as do the other winners who are shattering the international record book, to object. He does, strenuously. "This kind of talk makes me really angry. Now that we're strong, they say we did it through drugs. They're the ones who are on drugs."

His women athletes, Mr Ma insists, "are more used to running than men and more obedient, more willing to submit to the discipline of a trainer. Nothing extraordinary has happened. It was all due to scientific training methods."

Mr Ma's methods, which result in distance records smashed to smithereens, include finding the girls very young. This is now true for all China's top athletes, who are sequestered when they are five or six and subjected to long, rigorous and admirably painful training.

The girls, Mr Ma says, are from poor families, who see athletics as a way of escaping poverty and are willing to run hard at high altitudes in Qinghai province, in the northwest, which was once a part of Tibet and is also the site of China's extensive gulags. The "Ma family", as the runners are known, also train on a special diet, including soft-shell turtles and some kind of worms called *donggongzi xiaozi*, and winter-insect—summer-grass, which men in Hong Kong use as an aphrodisiac.

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President Mitterrand of France, 76, looking tired and frail, being supported by an aide as he arrived at the official residence of President Kim Young of South Korea yesterday. Shortly afterwards M Mitterrand almost fainted and vomited into his handkerchief (Charles Bremner writes from Paris). He had to be helped from the building. M Mitterrand, who is recovering from prostate cancer, had flown in from Paris only two hours earlier and officials said he had been slightly overcome by fatigue and the humid heat in Seoul. He resumed his duties after a 20-minute rest. Witnesses said that M Mitterrand became ill while signing the visitors' book at the presidential Blue House before meeting President Kim for talks.

Mandela urges whites to join in burying the past

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN CAPE TOWN

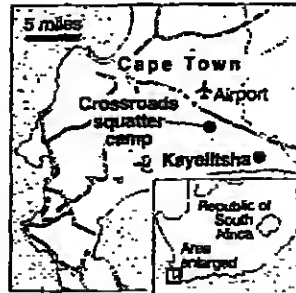
NELSON Mandela, president of the African National Congress, yesterday ended a five-day electrifying tour of the Cape province aimed at reassuring white and Coloured voters in the run-up to next April's first all-race general election. "Let us bury the past," he told them in Afrikaans. "What is past is past."

Whites and Coloureds between them outnumber blacks in the Western Cape and Mr Mandela was at pains to calm their fears of violence and socialism. He also warned his followers that the violence must stop and that whites were important to the future of South Africa.

He bitterly condemned the murderers of Amy Biehl, the white American exchange student who was stabbed and beaten to death in a Cape township three weeks ago. "They are animals," he told a crowd of 40,000 in the black township of Kayelitsha on Sunday.

He said the ANC did not want to frighten whites and drive them away. "We want them to remain and help us with their skills to rebuild the country," he said. In the Crossroads squatter camp, recent scenes of battles between feuding groups, he said yesterday: "I've come here to say: 'Please stop whatever you have been doing. It is enough'."

To a mainly white audience in Cape Town last night, he said: "This is not the time to think of emigration to Australia." To Coloured audiences in Mitchell's Plain, he repeatedly referred to their special concerns, vowing that the ANC would address crime, housing, education and unemployment.



had aided the ANC in the past, including Helen Suzman and Dr Beyer Naudé, who had been banned for their help. David Webster, a university lecturer assassinated for his outspokenness, and Albie Sachs, crippled by a white terrorist's bomb. On the platform with him were a number of whites, most of them university academics and liberal politicians.

US eases Vietnam sanctions

Hanoi: Vietnam has welcomed President Clinton's decision to ease American sanctions but said it was a pity the embargo had not been lifted. The foreign ministry said the remaining restrictions meant American businesses could not compete fairly for contracts.

American and Vietnamese businessmen, who hoped Mr Clinton would end the 29-year-old sanctions, were also disappointed by his decision only to let firms compete for development contracts funded by multilateral bodies such as the World Bank. (Reuters)

Tourists freed

Ankara: Seven Western tourists—two Italians, two Swiss, two Germans and one New Zealander—kidnapped by Kurdish rebels last month have been released near Dugubeyazit in eastern Turkey. (Reuters)

Back in hospital

Calcutta: Mother Teresa, 83, in hospital for the second time in less than a month, is "doing fine and there is nothing to worry about", Sister Priscilla of the Missionaries of Charity, said. (Reuters)

Schiffer loses

Madrid: Claudia Schiffer, the German model, has lost her bid for photographs taken of her topless while on holiday in Majorca. A Spanish court also rejected her demand for £4 million in compensation.

Snakes alive

Winnipeg: A home has been opened here for stray snakes. Several reptiles, including two Burmese pythons—one 16ft long—have been found in sewers recently. (Reuters)

UN chief under pressure for policy change in Somalia

FROM SAM KILBY IN MOGADISHU

ADMIRAL Jonathan Howe, the American head of the United Nations operation in Somalia, has been called back to New York for urgent talks with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, as the UN faces a severe crisis of conscience over its policy in Somalia, which has led to the shooting of more than 500 civilians since June, including women and children.

Some UN sources in Mogadishu said yesterday that they did not expect the admiral to return to his post as the UN's special representative. Some believe he may be replaced by Jimmy Carter, the former US president, who has had regu-

lar contacts with General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the fugitive warlord. Others said that Admiral Howe would return, but under orders to "bury" the arrest order he issued for General Aidid and to open peace negotiations in south Mogadishu.

Military sources admit they "grossly underestimated" General Aidid's support and his fighters' battle abilities. Small groups of militia with light weapons have defied the better-armed UN forces. The success of the militia has raised the question of whether it will overrun UN headquarters. As one UN officer put it: "This is a mess. We are not the

right people for this job. Now we are on the defensive." Steve Rifkin, director of the Save the Children charity, said the UN should "shelve" the arrest order for General Aidid and open formal negotiations. "The south of the city is in a state of war. We are all at risk from stray bullets and mortar fire and find it almost impossible to work."

UN aid workers also argued that the UN should talk to General Aidid. "The humanitarian mission here has been forgotten. We have to see a political solution or we will never be able to work in peace," said a senior UN relief official.

Axis revisited as Rhine maidens serve Akihito schnapps

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

THERE was a strange sight in Düsseldorf yesterday: beery Rhine maidens in kimono serving tea and schnapps at a street festival in a confused, ill-mannered attempt to mark the visit of the Tennō Emperor Akihito of Japan.

Akihito and his wife, Michiko, have embarked on a European tour that points to the exclusion of Britain and the Netherlands, where war memories are etched deep. This attempt to avoid controversy has the unfortunate effect of making the tour seem like an old Axis reunion, focusing mainly on Tokyo's wartime allies, Italy and Germany. Indeed, one of the emperor's first duties was to lay wreaths at a Bonn cemetery which contains many war graves.

Neither German nor Japanese diplomats care to project the visit in quite that light. For one thing the emperor, known as the Tennō,

is supposed to be above politics. And almost as much time has been devoted to fish talk—Akihito has published some 25 specialist articles on fish—as to the problems of European-Japanese relations.

But the tour—only the third ever made by the emperor—raises the question of how the two losers of the second world war should redefine themselves as winners of the Cold War. Everything Germany has much to learn from Japan. The Japanese were the first to grasp how to participate in UN peacekeeping missions abroad. And Tokyo has been far more assertive in seeking a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

There is also a distinct difference in the way that the countries deal with war guilt. Only recently Japan has started to apologise to South Korea about the wartime enslavement of Korean women. The Germans have for the past 50 years prefaced every statement of national interest with an assurance that it was not returning to the bad old ways.

A policy conference organised by Klaus Kinkel, the foreign minister, last week showed however that Germany is going through similar motions as the Japanese as it works out ways of projecting its interests abroad.

Even domestic political rhetoric draws on the Japanese experience. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, urges teachers and parents to bring up children in a culture of hard work and family obligations, to concentrate their studies, to look after the elderly.

German-Japanese co-operation has its roots in the 19th century, when Prussia signed a friendship treaty with Tokyo in 1861. But, as everyone tried to avoid mentioning yesterday, the deepest friendship dates from Nazi days: the 1936 Anti-Comintern Pact, the 1937 Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis, the pact of 1940.

The emperor's trip is supposed to acknowledge the legacy and then leave it behind, as both countries try to shrug off the image of war losers and economic winners.



Akihito in Bonn yesterday where he laid wreaths at a war cemetery

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**THIS WAS
OUR CAMPAIGN
IN 1985**



From the Ice Age to *I'm All Right Jack*: a second taste of the *Encyclopedia of Britain*

Mr Gascoigne's eye-opener

LIKE Dr Johnson's dictionary, Bamber Gascoigne's new *Encyclopedia of Britain* is not only invaluable but also idiosyncratic. Today's extract, for example, takes a meandering course from one London institution to another, by way of the Icknield Way and Ilkley, not to mention the Ice Age. It follows yesterday's extract, based on the letter T. Tomorrow will come M, then E and, finally, S.

Readers are invited to compete in the Great British Quiz, based on the book. There is a first prize worth £5,000 and five others worth £1,000, while 50 finalists will win a night at a top London hotel. The second set of questions is given below. The daily extracts will not necessarily help with the quiz, though ownership of the book will be useful. It is published on September 24 and quiz entries must arrive by October 1. There will be 20 questions a day, 100 in all. Entry details and rules will be given on Saturday.

ICA (Institute of Contemporary Arts, London SW1) Founded in 1947 to promote the cause of modern art through exhibitions and lectures, the Institute was in Dover Street until moving to its present premises in the Mall in 1968.

Ice Age Term commonly used to mean the most recent of several glacial periods in which the cooling of the earth resulted in the polar ice cap extending far southward. A related and equally significant effect was the sinking of the sea level, as more of the earth's water was piled high as ice. In the last ice age, which ended about 10,000 years ago, the ice cap reached almost to the south of Britain (to a line roughly between the Bristol Channel and East Anglia) and dry land joined England to France between Dover and Calais. Humans crossed from the Continent and lived in caves, hunting the large hairy mammals such as the mammoth and the woolly rhinoceros which thrived in those conditions, but became extinct with the thaw. The cycles of ice ages are not fully understood, but the current estimate is that the next one will begin in about 23,000 years.

ICI (Imperial Chemical Industries) Company formed in 1926 by the merger of Britain's four largest chemical concerns at that time, with the express purpose of creating a group of major international status — a role which ICI has successfully maintained, though sometimes with the reputation of a slumbering giant. In 1991 attracted the attention of "Hanson". The founding partners in 1926 were Brunner Mond, manufacturers of alkali; United Alkali, in the same field; Nobel Industries, an explosives company set up in 1870 by Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite; and British Dyes. In 1992 ICI announced a plan to split into two: commodity chemicals, paints and explosives were to remain with the existing company; and a new company, Zeneca, was to take over the specialty chemicals, drugs, agrochemicals and seeds businesses.

Icknield Way Prehistoric track which followed the high ground southwest from the "Wash, through the hills of East Anglia and the Chilterns to the Berkshire Downs. It then joined another route, to continue to the Stonehenge area and probably on to the south coast. The section through East Anglia and the Chilterns is still much used by walkers.

Ickworth (5km/3m SE of Bury St Edmunds) One of the strangest of English houses, built from 1795 for an improbable character — the 4th earl of Bristol (1750-1803), an avid collector and traveller (any Hotel Bristol on the Continent is named after him), who was simultaneously the free-spending and free-thinking bishop of Derry in Ireland. The great oval rotunda which is the central feature of Ickworth was to a design by an Italian architect (Mario Asprucci), modified by Francis and Joseph Sandys. The earl, who died before the completion of the house in 1829, had intended to live in the state rooms of the rotunda and to keep his art collection in the wings which are linked to it by long curving passages.



Immigration: West Indians arriving in Southampton in April 1961, to meet Britain's need for cheap labour in the postwar years

I. Claudius (1934) Historical novel by Robert Graves, in which Claudius narrates an endearing version of his own eccentric path to the imperial throne through the horrors of Rome in the 1st century AD. Together with its sequel, *Claudius the God* (also 1934), it provided the material for a 13-part BBC drama series (*I, Claudius* 1976) starring Derek Jacobi.

Ideal Home Exhibition Britain's largest annual exhibition of products connected with the home, sponsored by the *Daily Mail*. The first was held at Olympia in 1908. The exhibitions have been annual since 1923, apart from the war years, and have been at Earl's Court since 1979. In addition to the several hundred firms exhibiting their wares, each Ideal Home Exhibition includes some complete show houses built for the occasion.

If Poem by Kipling, published in *Rewards and Fairies* (1910) and rivalled only by Polonius's "Neither a borrower nor a lender be" as a popular poetic collection of common-sense advice. But whereas Polonius is an old fool, Kipling is entirely serious. His "ifs" are those tests which a boy must pass if he is to be a man (the poem begins, "If you can keep your head when all about you / Are losing theirs..."). The ideals are those of the English "public school" and the stiff upper lip: not even your closest friend should be able to hurt you, don't look too good or talk too wise, dream but not too much, feel but not too much, think but not too much. Lindsay Anderson's film *If* (1969) is set in a public school of which every flaw is writ large.

"Ignorance is bliss" A quotation which has long appealed to schoolchildren, unaware of its original

meaning or that it was first applied directly to them. It comes from Thomas Gray's *Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College* (1742, publ. 1747). The poet envies the schoolboys their childish ignorance of the sorrows which will come with adult life: "Where ignorance is bliss, 'Tis folly to be wise."

"Ignorance, madam, pure ignorance" The disarming reply of Dr Johnson on being asked by a woman why, in his *Dictionary*, he had defined "pastern" as the knee of a horse.

Ilkley (24,000 in 1981) Town in West Yorkshire, best known for the moor-stretching to the south which features in the popular song *On Ilkley Moor baht'at* (meaning "On Ilkley Moor without a hat").

The Illustrated London News (ILN) Magazine of great significance in that its first issue — on 14 May 1842 — introduced the era of illustrated journalism. It was the brainchild of a printer, Herbert Ingram (1811-60), who had made money as a sideline from the sale of a laxative, Parr's Life Pills. His concept — news stories made more immediate by specially commissioned wood engravings — was an instant success. The paper was also made eye-catching by having news and pictures on the front page where others had only advertisements. Its content was challenging too; the second issue placed pictures of the domestic life of

the young queen beside others of children working in the mines. When there was revolution in the streets of Paris in 1848, the editor sent an artist over with instructions to rush drawings back for the wood engravers — the first example of frontline image-gathering, now familiar in journalism.

The magazine remained for well over a century under the direct control of the Ingram family; the founder's grandson, Bruce Ingram, was editor for an extraordinary span of 63 years (1900-63). It was a weekly from its launch in 1842; in 1971 it became a monthly and since 1989 has appeared only every other month.

I'm All Right Jack (1959) Satirical film by the "Boulting brothers" which aimed at many targets, from corrupt management to idle workers, but which was seen above all as an attack on the trade union. The resplendent performance of Peter Sellers as Fred Kite, a ludicrously self-important shop steward,

son was the brilliant performance of Peter Sellers as Fred Kite, a ludicrously self-important shop steward. Immigration A politically charged subject in Britain since the 1960s. In the years immediately after World War II, when the country had need of cheap labour, immigration from within the Commonwealth was made easy. The new arrivals came first from the West Indies and then from the Indian subcontinent. But alarm in some quarters at their numbers led to a Commonwealth Immigration Act in 1962. In 1968 the Common-

wealth Immigration Act further restricted the number of Asians arriving from Kenya. By then it was possible for politicians to play on prejudices against ethnic minorities. It was the year of Enoch Powell's "rivers of blood" speech, and "Nazi" was making their appearance in Britain.

The present law derives from the Immigration Acts of 1971 and 1988 and from the British Nationality Act of 1981. The combined effect of these has been to limit permanent entry to "British citizens, citizens of the Republic of Ireland and certain Commonwealth citizens (those born before 1983 with at least one British parent); meanwhile EC regulations allow residence to citizens of other EC countries. Any outside these categories who are allowed to settle either have skills in short supply in Britain or have been granted political asylum.

Imperial War Museum (London SE1) Established by the government in 1917 to display the history of World War I and to receive the work produced by the official war artists, the museum opened in 1920 in the Crystal Palace. It transferred to its present building (previously "Bedlam") in 1936. Its theme has remained the history of war since 1914. A huge holding of modern British art (the largest outside the Tate Gallery) is supplemented by documents, weapons and vehicles. Outposts of the museum are HMS "Belfast", "Duxford airfield" and the "Cabinets War Rooms".

* Asterisks indicate other entries. Extracted from Bamber Gascoigne's *Encyclopedia of Britain*, published by Macmillan on September 24, price £29.95. © Bamber Gascoigne, 1993

The lies behind la vie en rose

Edith Piaf loved her image more than men, Charles Bremner writes

Most French people over the age of 40 can offer a few key facts about the lurid life of Edith Piaf, the street singer who became her country's most revered performer. She was born on a policeman's cape; she was blind for four years of her childhood; as a teenager, she prostituted herself to pay for her mother's funeral; she was seen-and-and may have had an affair with Marlene Dietrich.

None of this is true, according to accounts in reminiscences and three biographies ahead of the 30th anniversary next month of Piaf's death at 47. With the cult in high gear, it was time to revisit the legend of Edith Piaf, or la Môme Piaf, the "little kid sparrow", as her first stage name titled her. The portrait that emerges is of a woman whose life was so packed with misery and grandeur she hardly needed to embroider it.

However, none of the revisionists question the genius of the singer with a voice packed so much chagrin that, as the late Boris Vian said, "she would have been a success singing the phone book". The biographers agree, too, that although she may have been a man-eater, and had legions of celebrated lovers, including Yves Montand, Charles Aznavour and Marcel Cerdan, the boxer, she was far from the nymphomaniac of legend. She was barely interested in sex, according to some of her partners; she needed men to groom and to compensate for a lack of self-confidence. "She was neither a woman of the bed, nor the woman who fell deeply in love, as the legend and the illusion she created herself would have it," according to Louis Barrrier, her impresario, who is now 84.

Among the many myths Piaf encouraged was the story of her birth, according to Pierre Dicks and Louis Valentini, authors of rival new biographies both called *Piaf*. A plaque at 75 rue de Belleville records that Edith was born on the steps. She encouraged the tale that two passing gendarmes delivered her as Anita, her mother, was being rushed to hospital by Louis, her father. The records show, however, that the baby, named after Edith Clavell, an English nurse shot by the Germans, was born in hospital on December 19 1915. Immediately abandoned by her mother, she spent her earliest years in squalor with one grandmother before moving to the care of her other one, who ran a brothel. There, the biographers say, she succumbed to corns, inflammation, which required her eyes to be bandaged for six months. The singer made much of the tale of the restoration of her sight after women, preyed at a shrine.

Piaf's departure from the world was the subject of deception. She was officially pronounced dead in Paris on October 11 1963, with Theo Sarapo, her last husband, a hairdresser, at her bedside. In reality, she died the previous day in her house near Mougins of liver disease and alcohol and drug abuse. Her entourage was determined to carry out her wish to be buried in Père-Lachaise, so they hired an ambulance and drove all

night back to her Paris home, telling the press she was going for further treatment.

The episode is described by Duclos and also by Marc and Danielle Bonel, her accountant and secretary for the last 18 years of her life, who have produced an affectionate memoir, *Edith Piaf, le Temps d'une Vie*. The Bonels, in passing, also ridicule the recent claim by Maria Riva, Dietrich's daughter, that Piaf had a liaison with the German actress after the war.

They dismiss another legend: that Piaf refused to help her mother when she was in prison. The singer's record during the war, when she lived in rooms at a bordello, and sang to theatres packed with Germans, was not quite as respectable as she claimed, according to Duclos. He found no evidence to support her claim that she had used her concerts at French camps in Germany as cover for smuggling out prisoners.

Piaf's prodigious love life, during which, Valentini claims, she ran through 200 men in France and the Americas, dominates the biographies. The woman who spent her life singing of passion and heartbreak, never really had a man "under her



Piaf, the little kid sparrow

skin", as she sang in "Je t'ai dans la Peur".

Her affairs and the first two of three marriages followed the same pattern. An idealist and a perfectionist, she would take a new lover, often starting him on his own career, as she did with Montand, Aznavour and Gilbert Bécaud, then grow disappointed and drop him coldly for another.

Her only great heartbreak was Cerdan, who died in an air crash in 1949. Far from the battered woman of legend, the frail Piaf dominated her men and used her fists.

While knocking down the myths, many of them malicious gossip from her own lifetime, none of the biographers challenges Piaf's image as a restless woman who never found happiness and whose biggest hit outside France, "La Vie en Rose", least reflected her true character. Charles Dumont, who wrote "Je Ne Regrette Rien", is one of many old friends who believe the grandeur of Piaf will survive all the myths and revisions. "They have written a lot of nonsense," he says, which will end up in the "rubbish dump that one day will be the repository of malice and jealousy."

CHARLES BREMNER

The Great British Quiz

The second 20 questions in our five-day quiz, with prizes worth £20,000. All today's answers have an I flavour and can be found in Bamber Gascoigne's *Encyclopedia of Britain*.

- What phrase was first given wide currency in Fulton, Missouri?
- Which abbreviated phrase appeared on British coins from 1893 to 1947?
- In what did Kevin Whately play the part of a long-suffering assistant?
- On which island did George Macleod found a Christian community in 1938?
- In which book did Harry Palmer make his appearance in 1962?
- What was the middle name of David Davies, who adopted a new surname in 1927 and was briefly in prison in 1944 for evading petrol restrictions?
- Who is Britain's youngest ever graduate, with first-class honours at the age of 13?
- What phrase was re-used by Leo Amery on 7 May 1940?
- Which poem is an elegy for Arthur Hallam?
- Who designed the Morris Minor?
- What stage name was used by John Henry Brodribb?
- Who patented pudding in 1784?
- What was introduced in 1799 at 10 per cent?
- What was designed by Gerald Bull, who died in 1990?
- Which legendary Irish princess was betrothed to a king of Cornwall?
- Who hides in a trunk in Imogen's bedroom to discover her intimate secrets?
- What pseudonym was used by R.H. Barham?
- In what context was Geoffrey Collier's case the first?
- Which garden was established by Osgood Mackenzie?
- Which motto was adopted in Britain after the Battle of Crecy?

Keep your answers safe. Twenty questions will be given each day and full rules of entry will be given on Saturday. Entries must arrive by October 1. The top 50 contestants will win a night for two at the St James Court Hotel, London, where the final will be held. The first prize is a £5,000 Car & Kings travel voucher; five runners-up will receive £1,000 vouchers.

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Britain's travellers in time



MARGOT NORMAN

I was handed an unusually attractive army recruiting leaflet the other day. "Join Today!" it said, across a photograph of five smart soldiers standing in attention behind a 16-pounder muzzle-loading gun of the 1870s. I was confused. Have defence cuts reduced us to such aged weaponry?

We're the Portsmouth Artillery Volunteers," the man explained, pointing to his 1880s uniform with a wide red stripe down the trousers. "We defend Fort Nelson and protect the city of Portsmouth. We'll be firing that gun up on the ramparts this afternoon."

I was getting more confused by the minute, as Fort Nelson gradually filled up with all manner of soldiery. There were men on gorgeously caparisoned horses, carrying medieval lances, and foot soldiers with longbows. There was a troop of light cavalry wearing shakos and a fetching pale blue uniform: there were first world

war infantrymen with jolly moustaches discussing with the cavalry what a nuisance wearing puttees could be.

Looking at all this activity was a 14-year-old second world war enthusiast who had laid out neatly around him an extraordinary collection of guns, ammunition, uniforms and memorabilia — all bought with pocket money.

"What you see here," said the Portsmouth Volunteer, "is living history. It's like the virtual reality so many kids are hooked on, only healthier and more intelligent. They just sit in an arcade shovelling coins into a machine, while we're out in the open air, busting a gut to get everything absolutely accurate. You learn an awful lot of

history doing this." Indeed you do. I entered Fort Nelson an ignoramus but, after watching the tour-nament and listening to the expert commentary, I understood one or two significant things (such as why the longbow made so much difference to our military fortunes) and innumerable minor ones which, while hardly curriculum history, undeniably brought it to life.

You learn more than you ever thought you wanted to know from these dedicated amateur method actors. Just stand and watch and it all rubs off on you, that relentless accumulation of detail they all need to "virtually be" a medieval Bowman or one of Palmerston's volunteers.

Is this the acceptable face of the

"brown-sign" economy? I think it is. There are now 25,000 of those brown signs along English roads, pointing to assorted sites of interest to tourists, and increasing numbers of these venues present some sort of living history display. English Heritage distributes an

events calendar to its 300,000 members, and it appears that anyone interested in enlivening an empty castle with a manifestation of anything that once happened there, from spinning to cooking to enacting a full-scale battle, will be snapped up.

There is really nothing Disneyish about all this. These people are serious amateur historians, and seriously specialised, whose activities are described in the Living History Register's newsletter.

It can sound comical. Here is Captayne Henry Hazzard's company announcing that it will "do a living history" depicting the surrender of Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight, in 1642: "... so we shall march in from Newport and, as

happened, we display our strength, negotiate a surrender, then walk in... and have dinner." The newsletter carries information about the Dark Ages society, the Napoleonic association, the WW2 Battle Re-enactment association and the Friends of Basing House (who are into Tudor and Stuart cooking), as well as the Sealed Knot society, which re-enacts battles from the Civil War.

Or you can go to Kentwell Hall, in Suffolk, and spend a month living the life of a Tudor servant under a despotic master. The newsletter is full of ads from costumiers, spinning-wheel makers, troupes of early musicians and galliard dancers, and musket-makers. There is even a video called *The Blow by Blow Guide to Swordfighting in the Renaissance style*.

Apart from being good clean fun, more interesting and less deleterious to the landscape than golf, this living history lark may be useful. The German government has just felt obliged to issue schoolchildren at 500 schools with an official history, done in cartoons, of the Hitlerzeit. This is because, since their elders were too embarrassed to tell them about it before, they have been absorbing a dangerously one-sided version of the period from the neo-Nazis.

Jeer at theme-park Britain if you must, but at least accept that British schoolchildren, surrounded by animated reminders of successful invasions by foreign conquerors, and battles lost and won, including those of the second world war, get a war-and-all view of their past.

The kids from Casualty

Libby Purves visits a soap opera set to find the world's best-equipped game of doctors and nurses

A girl lies supine on a hospital trolley. Around her cluster the crash resuscitation team, briskly smacking veins for intravenous injections, preparing electric shock pads and rapping out "20 mils adrenalin — still no pulse — BEEP — she's flat-lined — we can't lose this one!" They busy themselves with defibrillator pads to jerk the figure into life, around them is the familiar, frightening array of drip-stands. Even the trolley wheels give an authentically dreadful hospital squeak. But nobody in the room is over 17, and some of the medical team have to stand on tiptoe to reach across the patient who now sits up and says "have I got malaria?" in a hopeful way, only to be told "No, a head injury from a hockey stick. Lie down."

This is possibly the best-equipped game of doctors and nurses in the world. It is also the most purposeful: 90 children have been recruited by the BBC from Bristol schools as "Casualty Kids", to be trained in drama workshops on the permanent set of *Casualty* in a pair of Bristol warehouses. It was Michael Ferguson, the new producer, who decided to bypass the specialist theatrical agents who normally provide winsome child actors for television. He appealed to local schools for the best of their actors, and set up weekly sessions with Ali Simmons, a drama teacher and former psychiatric nurse.

As a result the programme now has a bottomless, self-renewing well of local talent to

play cycle accident victims, roundabout casualties, joyriders, drug addicts and other child protagonists in the eighth run of the BBC's controversial drama series. Mr Ferguson took it over after the furore last year surrounding the inner-city riot which ended the seventh series, which even brought an admission from the Controller of BBC1, Alan Yentob, that it was "a mistake". The new broom has said he would "probably not" have done the riot, but he is no romantic escapist either. With a track record including *EastEnders* and *The Bill*, Mr Ferguson is evangelical about the social and cathartic importance of realist drama — "society facing up to its fears in safe surroundings". In the children, he said, he wanted "something different, and more real" than usually available.

Ms Simmons puts it more baldly: "We didn't want teeth 'n' smiles. We work on reacting, emotional recall, focusing, silliness, paring it down. They mustn't project as if they were in a school play." Apart from this Alec Guinness economy of gesture, it saves time and directorial temper if even seven-year-olds have a grounding in the peculiarities of television acting. "They have to be aware of marks on the floor, and never, ever look at a camera." Moreover, *Casualty* being in the business of freezing the blood of the nation's mothers with its medical realism, the children must learn more rarefied skills. "We have done a lot of work on asthma," Ms Simmons says. "Also



Theatre in the operating theatre, a group of the Casualty Kids on their television set in Bristol — "They have to be aware of marks on the floor, and never, ever look at a camera"

drugs, panic, fear, domestic violence, housing problems. A lot of these children are from the inner city, and know about the problems in the series. One of our rules is that nobody turns up drunk or in a mood-altered state."

Any adult who worries about teaching young children to act out trauma for TV may be assured that Ms Simmons and her assistant, Glenn Supple, think about that, too. "He and I do talk about exploitation. We would not work on sexual abuse, for instance. We are employed by the production company, but we regard ourselves as on the children's side. We keep all the rules about hours, licensing, chaplains and pay: they used 60

of our children on location in a fairground scene, and they were all paid £24 a day. But Ali Simmons says that "In the end, we are offering them something special, an achievement in their own right. It's signing them off at the end which worries me."

Sixty of the Casualty Kids appear in the new series, starting on Saturday. Most were extras, but eight had leading parts, the most envied being the goriest. "One boy has his arm chopped off," they told me with awe. "He was eight," says Ali fondly. "He was having a ball — he had a rubber arm with two bones sticking out, and gelatin blood everywhere, and he kept dashing round the set

sticking it in people's faces. That child was a natural. He whimpered beautifully, and nobody had told him to."

Daniel Rafferty, 17, went on location and was pushed over a weir. "On wires. Filming is very scary, but you concentrate," Ben Price, a year younger, is in the first episode. "I'm a joyrider. I get killed instantly, so I don't get onto the hospital set unfortunately." Seeing his death on screen was "rather odd, actually," Indi Davis, a tiny blonde angel, got bitten by a gerbil. "I got it wrapped up in casualty. I had to say the gerbil's name, Freddie Kruger, and thank you. But the

rest got cut out". Indeed, the miseries of professional showbiz are well in evidence: not only did Samantha Cole endure eight solid hours on the fairground Walzer, but when she limped onto the *Casualty* set with a sprained ankle, "I had the wrong clothes, and they shouted at me in make-up and I felt really embarrassed, and in the end I didn't even get filmed."

She remains loyal, however, maybe recognising that if she had had her moment of glory with a plaster cast or a death rattle, she would be out. Realist drama does not permit the return of corpses, however talented, for another episode.

Back in the resuscitation suite, the head-injury improvi-

sation is reaching its climax. Indi Davis bursts in, sobbing "My Mum... my Mum... boohooohoo hoo!" The child is heartbreaking. One has a terrible feeling that Mr Ferguson may be saving her up for one of those episodes which nervous mothers have to watch from behind the sofa with a large gin. But on the

word "break!" Indi grins and returns compositely to her marks. "They have to get used to doing take after take," Ali Simmons says. "Twenty takes is virtually child abuse. I think Glenn and I defend them from directors, and sit in the spare ambulance feeding them chips when they get exhausted."

An old trouser who fights on for the truth

Marius Goring is on the brink of financial ruin as a result of his battle with the ultra-left wing of the acting union

MARIUS Goring does not look like a man who is about to go bankrupt. He looks as if he is spending his retirement gossiping and snoozing in the plush armchair of the Garrick Club. Instead, at the age of 81, Goring is getting ready for the next act in a show that has been engaged in a vociferous battle with Equity, the acting union. If he loses the next round he loses everything.

Goring once hoped to be remembered for his acting career, with parts in television series such as *The Expert* or *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Now he admits that his place in acting history will be as a stubborn opponent of Equity's ultra-left wing and his campaign to get British television programmes shown in South Africa.

The doggedness is the legacy of his father, a doctor and criminologist who spent his life attempting to disprove a theory that criminals were determined by their physical attributes. Dr Goring was a musical fan and wanted his son to become an actor or dancer. Marius's mother, however, had her doubts and to appease her he studied at



Goring at bay — "I don't give a damn about who's left or right"

various universities in France and Germany.

Goring was at the University of Munich when he witnessed its takeover by the Nazis. "Until then German theatre was the most exciting in the world," he says. "But it died as soon as the state started to use it for the proliferation of its own beliefs." Such observations shaped his conviction that art can only flourish when it is apolitical.

During the war Goring was briefly a soldier, but then he was called up

by the "spooky people" at the foreign office and began broadcasting for the BBC to Germany. "We decided not to invent things, but to tell the German people the truth," he says. "By the end, the whole government listened to us for their information. It helped to shorten the war."

Afterwards, Goring went back to acting and found himself becoming more and more involved with Equity, of which he had been a founder member. The problems started in the 1970s, when a small group of Trotsky

kyte members of the Workers' Revolutionary party, led by Vanessa Redgrave and her brother Corin, pushed through votes on the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland and messages of congratulation to Ayatollah Khomeini on toppling the Shah of Iran.

Most actors, scattered around the country, were indifferent to or ignorant of the goings on in London. But a small band of self-proclaimed "moderates", including Goring, Donald Sinden and Richard Briers, was determined to defend a lazy majority from having opinions put in their mouths. Goring twice took Equity to court, once to ensure that decisions could only be taken after a referendum of all members, and once to prevent union funds being donated to striking miners.

Equity still forbids its members from visiting South Africa and will not allow British television programmes to be shown there. Last year, Goring went to court to have the policy declared unconstitutional. He lost, and faces bankruptcy over the costs unless he can find a benefactor to lodge £20,000.

Goring is obsessed, but he does his best not to be a bore. "My wife [the director, Prudence Fitzgerald] said, 'Don't for God's sake mention Equity,'" he laughs. He prefers to show off his talents with wonderfully enacted anecdotes or to talk about his

'My concern is to protect actors' and actresses' welfare. I love my profession'

current book, on the love-life of Kaiser Wilhelm. With a slight prod, however, he launches into a well-reasoned defence of his stand. "We all abhor apartheid and have vowed not to perform in front of segregated audiences," he says. "But we are preventing English actors and actresses from making money they need." He believes, as his wartime job showed, that the best way to win round an enemy is to infiltrate their culture, rather than isolate it.

His ambition is to take the Goldsmith play *The Strangers to Conquer* to South Africa, with an all-black cast. "The play is about two men who think the owners of an upper-class home are innkeepers and treat them accordingly. It questions why we treat people differently according to their position in society."

Goring is not the blimpish character some imagine. He spent every Christmas as a child with his black godfather, who had moved from Kingston, Jamaica, to Kingston, Surrey, and eyebrows were raised when he married a German refugee in the middle of the war. "I don't give a damn about who's left or right," he says. "My concern is to protect actors' and actresses' welfare. I have always loved my profession and I always will, no matter where it leads."

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

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Alan Coren



Now you can clutter the loft without going any farther than the post-box

When Sir Henry Souvenir (1536-1598) at last returned to the court of Queen Elizabeth from his ten-year expedition to the Orient, he little thought that their opening exchange would pass into history.

"What have you brought for me?" asked his queen.

"It is a box made from the liver of an elephant, Your Majesty," replied Sir Henry, "wrought in strange fashion by the natives, and covered in sea-shells. You can keep fags in it."

"Where did you get it?" she enquired. "I can't remember," he said. "I've been everywhere."

Thus it was that a pattern was laid: ever since, people have been coming back from distant parts carrying things to put cigarettes in, which they give to other people to prove how impressively they have travelled. Some of course, don't give their souvenirs away, preferring instead to build up a vast collection with which to decorate lofts: it is not clear why they do this, but a strong ritualistic element is patently involved, no doubt because the objects are associated with the passing of time and take on a totemistic quality from this association. Souvenirs, for example, can never be thrown away, because to do so would be to extirpate the past of which they are the only record. They are, however, moved around the loft every few years, when their lids tend to fall off, in the case of clocks, when their cuckoos fall out.

The cuckoo-clock, indeed, is the quintessential souvenir, in that it exists solely to be bought, sold, carried home, unwrapped, and put in lofts, either by the purchaser or the receiver. You never see it on walls. Invented by the Swiss Tourist Board because Switzerland had nothing to identify it (eg. leaning towers, beacons, Taj Mahals, castles, sphinxes), and because its two national products, snow and chocolate, melted, the cuckoo-clock came into being purely to give tourists something to buy and take home. Its huge success has, furthermore, led the Swiss to branch out with typically cautious adventurousness: removing the tiny house from which the cuckoo emerges, they have enlarged it in recent years and inserted a music-box, which, when you lift the lid, plays *O Mine Papa*, and breaks. It's for keeping fags in.

None of this, however, is meant to deny an international industry of quite astonishing creativity: let none impugn the brilliance of an imagination which looks at the Eiffel Tower and sees not a thousand feet of iron, but six inches of salt cellar with a nude in the base and a thermometer up one side, or appreciates the difference which can be made to a social occasion when its host squirts soda into his guests' whisky from a tiny Belgian statue. Nor have our own craftsmen been found wanting: a mere mile from where I sit, you can buy a midge guard with ten fags in his bushy and a gas lighter on the end of his rifle. All over Kansas, at this very moment, recent visitors to Britain will be trying to glue his head back on.

And it is that which is my point: the tourist has had to come here to buy it. In order, that is, to impress the folks back home with the horrible gee-gaws which stand testament to his travels, he has had to fly, trudge, queue, toes in strange beds, gag on strange food, and be parted, often unceremoniously, from his money. Until last week, last week was watershed — and I speak as one who knows, since I have not only stood astride the Great Divide so that the rain falling on my left foot drained into the Atlantic and that falling on my right drained into the Pacific. I also have a \$25 paperweight to prove it. Last week, a company called The House of Windsor Collection announced that it was embarking upon a massive advertising drive to reach 12 million Americans by Christmas. And what is it selling? According to a spokesman, it is selling "a whole new concept: mail order souvenirs."

What, I wonder, will the British Tourist Authority make of that? Cock a westward ear, and you may well pick up the thunderous sigh of relief currently sweeping America. For Americans do not need to come here any more. I know this, because I have just seen the Jewel of the House of Windsor Collection. It costs £111, and it is an enamel box with a picture of Windsor Castle on the lid. You can keep fags in it.



GREAT HANDSHAKES IN HISTORY: 2

Black hole in Smith Square

No one wants to be chairman of the Conservative party, because no one can remember what Central Office is for

I assume that Kenneth Baker and Chris Patten are consulting solicitors. The present regime at Conservative Central Office is claiming that they left the party in such a shambles as to be one stop short of receivership. On Monday the current chairman, Sir Norman Fowler, wrote a letter to *The Times* implying that the party has recently been in the grip of reckless spendthrifts. Stouts and weasels were swinging from the chandeliers and only he, Badger, has been able to save Toad Hall from ruin. The deficit was already £11.8 million at the start of 1991 (following the chairmanship of Kenneth Baker). Under Chris Patten it rose to £17.3 million. But Sir Norman has been struggling for 18 months simply to achieve "a more stable footing". Staff have been reduced from 400 to just 250. He hopes for a return to a "sound financial basis" provided the party can now put "past difficulties and divisions behind us". In a break with tradition, Sir Norman means the party to lose no more money this year.

Why do Conservative leaders keep their party organisation in being? They long treated it with contempt, perhaps because it always responded with blind adoration. Lord Carrington hated being chairman, since the post requires its holder "to show a cheerfulness he may not feel" (a requirement he rarely honoured). Lord Whitelaw said the chairmanship was "the worst six months of my career". Mrs Thatcher refused to appoint a director at Central Office after removing Michael Wolf in 1975, and instead sent "trusty" colleagues to run it for short periods. This meant no continuity and no strategy. Most of her chairmen, such as Cecil Parkinson, John Gummer and Peter Brooke, were unknown at the time. On his first day, Mr Parkinson did not even know where Central Office was. When he found it, he says in his memoirs, "I was not encouraged."

Mrs Thatcher never dared appoint the one man patently most qualified for the chairmanship, Michael Heseltine, for fear he might make a success of it. Norman Tebbit and Kenneth Baker were both swiftly undermined when they became too popular for Downing Street's comfort. Central Office was supposed to be engine room not bridge. John Major gave the job to Chris Patten, whose face mirrored his distaste for it throughout his tenure. Now the necessary insouciance hang limp from Sir Norman Fowler's lips. At present, the food minister, Nicholas Soames, is

running for the post in the columns of *The Daily Telegraph*. Small wonder Alan Clark professes himself mystified that any "serious politician" should covet such a career move. The marching order to Smith Square is the dreaded black spot. No chairman since Chamberlain has become party leader.

This is all most odd. The Tory chairmanship is the one post apart from leader that is a test of raw political talent rather than Westminster affability. An American politician would leap at such an opportunity: a national spotlight, a seat in cabinet without the burden of office, and a clear line of sight to those who ultimately determine the leadership of the party in the country. Yet each chairman serves his term as if in purgatory, testament to de Tocqueville's thesis that British politics is about clubs, not democracy.

As a result, each new chairman desperately portrays his task as Herculean. "Strictly between the two of us," he tells all comers earnestly, "you can't imagine the state the party is in. Central Office shouldn't be allowed to run a wheel shaft. There is no comprehension of elementary business methods. Bloggs was a good chairman in all sorts of ways, and a great personal friend, but frankly he was lucky to get out when he did. I've had to bring in consultants and plead with Patchy & Patchy to send round their brightest lads. We have no good people, you know, no marketing skills, no communicators, no proper budgeting. We spend money we don't have. Labour thinks we are rich: if only they knew what I know!"

I have lost count of how often I have heard this. Now it is Sir Norman's turn. (And Mr Baker's to respond: in his new book he roundly blames Mr Brooke and Mr Patten for his own apparent profligacy as chairman.) And to what effect? Central Office will muddle through. Britain's most trivial but crude sphere of corruption will be activated. Knights and peerages will be

distributed to help replenish party coffers. The deficit will be reduced or funded, and Sir Norman will plead for a new job and pass the chalice to somebody else. As Lord Tebbit said with a touch of sarcasm on leaving Central Office, "My report on changes needed in the party organisation was not difficult to write". Just too difficult to implement.

The Tory party's management of itself over the past 20 years is a dreadful comment on competence. Central Office is the one department under the leader's command that runs with no help from Whitehall and no permanent boss. The result is a backhanded compliment to

Whitehall. The organisation founders from campaign to campaign. New chairmen come in, recruit more staff and reinvent the wheel. Each one professes to have discovered direct mail or marginal seat targeting or in-depth polling. Mrs Thatcher told Mr Baker that it did not exist. Should the leadership not have the courage of its own lack of conviction?

The party exists locally, where MPs are elected or rejected. It has the leader's private office. It could develop the 1922 committee secretariat as a national coordinating committee between elections, as with American parties. The actual party conference could, like the election campaign, be put out to tender. Why does the Conservative party not practice what it preaches and privatise itself?

I think I know the answer. Conservative MPs like a little "below stairs" empire of their own, untrammelled by the civil service or modern political science. There they can ply the masonic rituals of their trade. They can dream of the days when intellectual decorum, deference and discipline ruled at Central Office. They can pretend that the public votes for principles not personalities, that hustings and speeches and that manifestos matter. Such pretences are the Hippocratic oath of politics. They will not lightly be surrendered. Central Office may be sorry, but it is safe.

Simon Jenkins

Baker's task was as crudely simple, to win elections. Yet this was a task she regarded herself as able to do unaided.

Mrs Thatcher's rage for centralisation and her aversion to dissent meant that Central Office decayed both as an organisation and as a channel of contact with regions and constituencies. She favoured independent think-tanks and private campaign advisers. By the 1987 election, she was running a personal campaign distinct from Mr Tebbit's at Central Office. When in 1990 she eventually needed grassroots help, it was not forthcoming. I believe there was great support for her within the party, but she had stifled the means of mobilising it. The once-tight threads of loyalty had been allowed to fray. The political conduits had been clogged.

John Major has done nothing to clear them. He should perhaps ask himself whether he really wants a national Conservative party any more. He has continued his predecessor's refusal to give it a strong director and appointed instead two close friends, neither with relevant experience, as executive chair-

men. The party is near bankrupt. The demoralisation of many constituencies, partly through the undermining of local government, starves the party of its one honest and democratic source of money, the mass membership, and so forces it back on big business. The next step will be that favoured by many constitutional reformers: party nationalisation, through Treasury subsidy.

National political organisations are like corporate advertising: probably a waste of money, but nobody knows for sure. Mrs Thatcher's scepticism may have been sound. She relied at election time on a *de facto* contract to *Stitch*, with Central Office as sub-contractor. Political organisers may hold it as an article of faith that a good national campaign can win an election, but they have a vested interest. Constituency associations run local campaigns, and it is hotly contested among psephologists whether they make any impact on a local result. Whether national organisations are any further help must be moot.

Between elections, Mrs Thatcher's communication with her party in the country relied on her own staff, on private political advisers and think-tanks, and on her dominance of the media through the House of Commons. Perhaps this was reckless, but she never lost an election. Ten years ago the Tory party went to the High Court to prove for tax purposes that it did not exist. It succeeded. Should the leadership not have the courage of its own lack of conviction?

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Pay will find its own level

Anatole Kaletsky
on the Chancellor's public-sector freeze

Kenneth Clarke seems just to have made his first big mistake. In announcing a cost-cutting limit of zero for every government department's pay bill — and then welding onto it a range of wide-ranging loopholes — the Chancellor has committed all the cardinal errors of incomes policies through the ages. He has adopted a provocative and rigid public posture, at a time when political support for his government is at rock-bottom, while sympathy for the unions shows signs of rising, admittedly from a very low point. He has left his flank exposed to policy-busting settlements from groups of workers with singular "special cases". Above all, he has taken on a force more powerful than the unions, by casually defying the laws of market economics.

At first sight, the Chancellor's contention that public sector pay should only rise in line with productivity sounds like obvious business sense. The Treasury argues that public-sector organisations with great scope for productivity improvements, such as the Post Office, transport and rubbish disposal, should be free to pay their workers more if they become more efficient. Meanwhile, employees in stagnant departments which achieve no productivity growth should have their pay frozen, at least in real terms.

The first objection to this policy is the obvious difficulty of defining productivity for many public-sector professions. Should teachers be paid more because their pupils' average grades keep rising? Should university lecturers have their salaries doubled in real terms because there are twice as many students in higher education as there were in 1979? Should junior doctors be expected to work more 36-hour shifts if they want to keep their pay from falling in real terms? Should more nurses be made redundant from hospital wards that are already understaffed? If Mr Clarke answers "no" to such questions, he must come up with definitions of productivity for teachers, nurses, firemen — and even senior mandarins themselves — which the Treasury does accept.

The Treasury is unlikely to do this, for one simple reason: it is impossible, even in principle, to find a definition of productivity that will make an "efficiency-determined" pay norm workable in the public sector, especially in the long term. Many public sector activities are, by their nature, labour-intensive services with less scope for the mechanisation and technological progress which can be expected to keep productivity rising relentlessly year after year. In any well-run manufacturing business, if every worker's pay were based on his or her own productivity, therefore, the earnings of manufacturing workers would rise steadily relative to the pay of teachers, doctors, and public officials, as well as other workers in service industries with low productivity growth, such as hairdressing, chairing companies and merchant banking.

For blue-collar workers to enjoy continuously increasing pay relative to nurses, teachers and hairdressers might seem manifestly unfair; but for the economist, there is a much more important objection — it is manifestly untrue. In reality, manufacturing workers, despite their high productivity, have not become steadily richer than service employees. Instead, market forces have ensured that service and public sector workers share in the benefits of the whole economy's productivity growth.

Competition in the labour market broadly ensures that people are paid roughly the same rate for the same job, regardless of their own employer's performance. A cleaner or an accountant should earn about the same, allowing for non-monetary factors such as security and pensions, whether he works in a high-productivity semiconductor factory or a labour-intensive hospital. Even in specialised professions such as teaching and medicine, competition will ensure that in the long run, pay levels are set not by the prosperity of the employers, but by the demand in the economy as a whole for the type of skills people offer.

Therein lies a major problem for any Chancellor. If public services have relatively low productivity growth, their cost will tend to rise steadily relative to national income. Over time, the public sector will absorb an ever-growing proportion of gross domestic product. But the answer to this is not to impoverish public-sector workers. It is to look for new ways of financing public services, as well as promoting efficiency, through privatisation or direct charging. It is also to shift funds to genuine public services, such as health and education, from much costlier transfer payments, such as child benefits and pensions.

All of these objections to public-sector pay freezes may seem hopelessly theoretical and long-term. But by linking pay so clearly — and wrongly — to productivity, Mr Clarke has invited the kind of economic objection that has a way of seeping subliminally into public opinion. Most people in Britain do not understand what was wrong with the government's exchange-rate policy, but they began to sense it would fail well before White Wednesday.

If ministers now decide to take on such popular groups as firemen, nurses and teachers, they may well lose popular support. Of course, the esopagist may not be Mr Clarke's economic theory, but the weakness of John Major's government. Perhaps, after all, the Chancellor does know what he is doing.

Best Leavitt alone?

SIR STEPHEN SPENDER'S old age continues to be turbulent. Last year his fury was roused by the writer, Hugh David, who published an unauthorised account of the poet's life. This week he has gone on the offensive again, accusing an American novelist, David Leavitt, of plagiarising his life, as told in his autobiography, the 1948 volume *World Within World*.

Leavitt's novel, *White England Sleeps*, is published in America in October and in Britain in November. According to Spender, "almost everything Leavitt describes has been taken from my book". In particular, Spender has been angered by Leavitt's passages about the Spanish civil war. In *World Within World*, he wrote of his relationship with a working-class man called Jimmy, who left Spender in 1936 to fight in Spain. The upper-class narrator in Leavitt's book begins a liaison with a working-class man called Edward who also, eventually, leaves to fight in Spain. This, Spender claims, is merely the start.

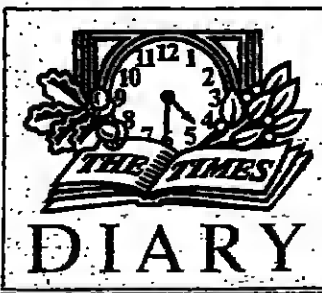
He says: "The whole theme of the book is mine, and there are about a dozen particular instances I could point to which are from my

book. I feel disgusted. It is outrageous. I feel very angry. He has no sense of history, no sense of what Barcelona was like. And it is also pornographic."

Leavitt's publisher claims Spender is over-reacting. Tony Lacey of Penguin Books says: "Spender was like. And it is also pornographic."

And there are some elements that do mirror things that happen in Spender's book. Plagiarism is a very tough word, but if he really believes that I suppose we will be hearing from him."

Inevitably, therefore, attention is now focusing on the dental health of another aspirant to No 10, Kenneth Clarke. But at the Garrick Club party for Baker on Monday night, it was difficult to tell whether the Chancellor had



good news or bad for his prime minister. Lord Wakeham, a man whose dental loyalty can be depended upon, was concluding a tale of a recent visit to the dreaded chair, when Clarke mischievously interjected: "I never go to dentists." Fellow guests, including Michael Portillo and Lord Tebbit, were left to speculate whether his teeth were immaculate or whether the public-sector borrowing requirement might not be the only gaping hole to need filling come November. Watch this cavity.

A family do

THIS being the biennial Brail Brith Jewish Music Festival's year off, as it were, its supporters are making do with a Rothschild Soirée. The £65-a-head evening, to be held next month, is well named.

The family theme begins with the venue — Gurnersbury House, a stately home in West London owned by a branch of the banking family until 1925 — and goes on in the same vein. Edmund de Rothschild, a director of N.M. Rothschild, the bank, and cousin of Lord Rothschild, will host the soirée, while daughter Charlotte, the soprano, will give a recital of songs written for, dedicated to or composed by members of the family. As for the raffish prizes — two guesses. A magnum of Chateau Lafite Rothschild and a magnum of Mouton Rothschild, each worth about £350. But as for the vintage, the organisers don't know. "We're not sure," says a spokeswoman. "Edmund has already wrapped them up."

Anyone seeking guidance on a second career would have enjoyed Monday's night's party for Decat, the new novel from Clare Francis, a yachtswoman turned millionaire thriller-writer. For among those paying court was the jockey turned millionaire thriller-writer Dick Francis (no relation). Any chance of Clare returning to her first love? "I last sailed 14 years ago. Asking me whether I intend to take up sailing again is like asking Dick whether he is going to ride horses again."

Wok-u-like

KENNETH LO, Britain's foremost Chinese chef, has taken time off from his 80th birthday celebrations to consider how British athletes might respond to the caterpillar-powered threat posed by the record-breaking Chinese.

Lo, who travelled with the Chinese Olympic team to the 1996 Berlin games as an interpreter, believes the perfect diet for an athlete is "a lot of noodles".

A former professional tennis player, Lo is convinced an athlete's performance is closely linked to diet. "If you eat fish and chips you are not going to run very fast. What you need is a good blend of food. I would say you need to pro-



duce several dishes. Fry the meat and vegetables separately. Vegetables should be tossed together in flavoured oil with garlic and ginger. The most important thing is not too much red meat."

Back in business

THE rehabilitation of President Carter continues apace: shedding a "discreet tear" at the White House on Monday, playing a key role in attempting to bring the warring sides in Somalia together, and — the final accolade — an appearance on BBC2's *Newsnight*. Jimmy Carter, the peanut farmer from Georgia, is definitely back.

And not before time, says Peter Jay, now the BBC's economics editor but for much of the Carter administration, an man in Washington. "He is one of the great underrated people in history," says Jay. "Time and again when the Camp David talks looked as if they were on the point of collapse, his personal energy and persuasiveness induced them to try again."

His problem, Jay says, was that he hated politics. "He would never descend into the political arena to explain his policies. He was anti-politics, and that is always a problem if you are a politician."

1640
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PAY CORNER

The moral of the story is that Mr Clarke should win

If John Major is the timid Piglet of A. A. Milne's children's stories, then Kenneth Clarke, his Chancellor, is developing a dangerous resemblance to Tigger. What upsets Piglet about Tigger, it may be recalled, is not only his larger than expected size ("I thought that Tiggers were smaller than that," he pipes); there is also Tigger's habit of shouting "Worra, worra, worra, worra!" and bouncing far too energetically around the forest. Yesterday there was plenty of both shouting and bouncing from Mr Clarke.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer first announced his intention not to allow any pay rises in the public sector unless they are paid for by higher productivity. "We have to break the inflation psychology that in the past has led to expectations of pay increases every year, unrelated to efficiency improvement or the ability of the employer to pay," he said.

Then, in case one initiative was not enough for the day, he added a speech on the future of Europe for good measure, with passages clearly designed to make better friends with those on the right of the party and to steal the thunder of his rival, Michael Howard, on crime and immigration. In a phrase that should please the most sceptical of MPs, he claimed that "De Gaulle has been proved right" about the importance of sovereignty; and he rowed back from his earlier enthusiasm for monetary union.

Though the pay policy may turn out to be less fierce than the Chancellor implies, MPs on the right will be pleased to see him acting as if he is prepared to withstand trade union threats in the cause of economic rectitude. They know that it is a job he has done well in the past, in the departments of both health and education. Moreover, he has taken on allcomers: from hospital consultants to ambulance drivers. Nobody can accuse him of protecting his professional friends while grinding down the working class.

Mr Clarke has chosen to strike while his opponents are at a low ebb. Although

incomes policies are hard to sustain for more than one year, public-sector pay rises have already been kept to a maximum of 1.5 per cent this year. That was not a ceiling that ministers were confident of maintaining — and yet they have done so with ease. Whatever trade union leaders may claim, public-sector workers are so relieved to be still in their jobs — and rightly so — that industrial action for higher pay is unlikely. And if that analysis is wrong, will the voting public side with the unions or the government in another winter of discontent? Although this administration remains extremely unpopular, private-sector workers have little sympathy with their brethren in the public sector. Many companies have imposed pay freezes in the past two years and almost all of their employees have been living in fear of redundancy. Equity dictates that the public sector too should share in this austerity for more than one year.

Whether it succeeds or fails, the pay policy can do Mr Clarke nothing but good. He will not personally have to deal with the unions: that job will fall to individual spending ministers. When ministers complain to the Chancellor, he will show little sympathy, pointing to his own unblemished record at winning union battles. If they start to lose the public relations battle, it will be the prime minister himself who will take the flak. Mr Major, who has never held a cabinet post as a spending minister, is inexperienced in the brinkmanship of political pay negotiations. If he backs down in the face of public pressure, the question will undoubtedly be asked: could Mr Clarke have done the job better in his shoes?

The risk of a pay policy will therefore be taken by the prime minister. If Mr Major, like Piglet, is feeling a little nervous, it would not be surprising. "Tigger is getting so bouncy nowadays that it's time we taught him a lesson," observes Rabbit in *The House at Pooh Corner*. "If they could think of a way of unbouncing him it would be a Very Good Idea," says Piglet in response.

NO GAME

Peking must not hold the millennium Olympics

The release of the Chinese political prisoner Wei Jingsheng yesterday after 14 years of miserable captivity was a token humanitarian gesture, apparently intended to persuade the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that Peking should hold the Olympics in 2000. It should inspire a mixture of relief and scepticism. Mr Wei, a well-known democrat activist who was imprisoned for spreading "counter-revolutionary propaganda", had already served all but six months of his 15-year sentence; much of it in solitary confinement. His release at the eleventh hour does nothing to strengthen Peking's Olympic ambitions.

In the next few days, hundreds of officials, politicians and organisers of city bids will descend upon Monte Carlo for the final IOC vote next Thursday. The committee must choose from a strong field of candidates led by Sydney, Peking and Manchester. All three campaigns have made impressive cases for their cities, promising superb infrastructure, ideal weather and meticulous organisation. The Times has backed Manchester's bid, which has been rigorously coordinated by the entrepreneur Bob Scott and well supported by John Major. The chances of Mancunian success — which would bring much-needed investment to the North-West — are thought to be stronger than ever.

But even if Manchester fails, it is essential that Peking does not succeed. The IOC's duty is not simply to ensure that the millennium Games are financially viable, smoothly organised and drug-free; it must also protect the spirit of international ideal-

ism enshrined in the political charter. To allow China to hold the Olympics would be to confer an undeserved patina of respectability upon its crumbling gerontocracy. "A more open China awaits you," promises the Peking bid's official slogan. Yet this bears little relation to the autocratic reality of Chinese political culture. At the end of the "capitalist road" taken by Mao's successors there are still 2,000 labour camps holding an estimated 16 million prisoners; the horrors of the Chinese gulag or *Laogai* have been recently and vividly chronicled by Harry Wu, a political prisoner for 19 years. Four years after the Tiananmen Square massacre, judicial execution and arbitrary arrest remain commonplace. At the United Nations human rights conference in June, the Chinese delegation did its best to sabotage the assembly's reaffirmation of universal human rights.

Increased contact with the outside world may hasten democratisation in China, where the antiquated structures of the totalitarian state are creaking under the pressures of a market economy. The growth of commercial and tourist relations with the West will slowly enhance the prospects of change. But to award the Games to China would have a quite different effect, handing over legitimacy in return for little more than window-dressing in the streets of Peking. The time will one day come for China to hold the world's greatest sporting event. But a state that so openly parades its contempt for international codes of decency does not yet deserve the trust of the Olympic torch.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

The birthday of Jesus is a date for mystery, not precision

According to the latest astronomical calculations, today is the millennium of the birth of Jesus Christ. This catches high street traders and other money-changers in the shopping temples of Christmas flat-footed for the first time in centuries.

September 15, 7 BC, suits the stars for the birth that changed the world, and about which scholars have been arguing for nearly 2,000 years. The evidence is scanty, because at the time few recognised the importance of the birth of a carpenter's son in the stable of an inn in a small town of an obscure province of the Roman empire. The early Christians did not bother to celebrate the birthday of their master, because they expected his imminent return. Only after four centuries did the official church at Rome fix on December 25, so replacing the pagan festival of the Dies Invicti Solis at the winter solstice and symbolising the victory of Christianity over paganism.

The eastern empire and the church at Jerusalem long continued to celebrate Christmas on January 6, Epiphany, as the Armenian Church still does. Gnostics and other heretics chose other days: for instance Wednesday, March 28, because Wednesday was the day on which, according to *Genesis*, God created the moon and the sun, and the "sun of righteousness" must have been born at the spring equinox, at a season when the world had also been created perfect.

Since then the debate has been divided between those who think that it must be possible for diligent research to rediscover

the real date of Christmas and those who consider that the search for an exact date misses the point. The latest scientific calculation follows in the laborious footsteps of James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh, who in 1654 established the date of Creation as 4004 BC, by totting up the ages of the patriarchs.

From the gospels and other sources, the historical window of possibility for the birth of Christ lies between 8 BC and the death of Herod the Great in 4 BC. 7 BC was a rare astronomical year of a triple conjunction between Jupiter and Saturn. Literal astronomers now identify the star that Matthew records the wise men following from the east as the second spectacular conjunction of these planets on September 15.

The symbolists have ranged from many of the early fathers, who deplored Christmas as the copy of a pagan festival, to modern puritans. As recently as 1935, the Northern Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland passed the judgment: "We would warn the young against giving countenance to such a Romanist practice as that of observing Christmas."

No knowledge is useless. But the search for the date of Christmas mistakes a miracle for a statistic. What matters is the birth and the consequences that have flowed from it. And practical men, not least high street traders, will prefer to stick to the old winter solstice as a suitable time to celebrate, on a date that has more to do with Dickens and December gloom than strict chronology.

US takeover of peace ceremony

From Lord Menzies, OM

Sir, It is a mistake of considerable magnitude for the Israelis and the Palestinians to have succumbed to White House temptation. The "celebration" in Washington of a most longed-for yet still very precarious achievement (reports, photographs and leading article, September 14) can only weaken the authority, the standing and the following of Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin.

Again, as Simon Jenkins suggests in his admirable article of September 11, "Worst efforts of diplomacy," a most valuable content is being sacrificed for a glossy wrapping. America would better serve the peace by an exercise in discretion. If outside witnesses were needed, the "celebration" should surely have been held in Oslo, not even in Paris, where the accord was finally hammered out. Ideally, it should take place on common ground in a solemn way, part requiem, part thanksgiving in character.

The log-jam of obstinacy has suffered its first crack — we pray decisive — thanks to persistent and courageous men who dared recognise that they had no alternative but to fulfil the will of the majority.

Like Menachem Begin, Arafat is another terrorist turned statesman. May we encourage more such evolution rather than encourage good young people to become monsters. Let us never forget that criminals and the law-abiding alike are all made of the same material and are all eventually responsible for each other.

In the Israeli-Palestinian context both groups of people have proven they are prepared to die for their Holy Land. Now, pray, let them and us all live for it together.

Yours faithfully,
YEHUDI MENZIES,
110 Gloucester Avenue, NW1,
September 14.

Visa factories

From Mr Ian Stewart

Sir, The role of the bogus language schools as "visa factories" (report, September 13) threatens Britain's reputation for providing quality English-language courses and value for money. The industry faces increased competition from a number of countries in a business worth some £500 million per annum to the UK.

The British Council provides quality control to those schools and colleges which seek membership of its accreditation schemes but this is on a voluntary basis.

A compulsory registration scheme is one step towards eliminating those "schools" which bring the industry into disrepute but we believe that such a scheme can be effective only if it has regulatory teeth.

Yours etc,
IAN STEWART
(Assistant Director),
English Language Division,
The British Council,
Medlock Street, Manchester 15,
September 13.

US anglophobes

From Mrs Debra Comer

Sir, Kate Muir (article, August 25; letters, September 10) should know that in Britain it has been open season on Americans for years, with Yank-bashing a hugely popular sport for both public and press.

As an American permanently resident in the UK (with my British husband and son), I can certainly attest to this. After seven years it still amazes me that while it is rightly considered a bad thing to insult ethnic minorities, the vilest comments are accepted, or even applauded, as long as an American is the target.

Now that the worm has, it seems, turned in the US and the British are no longer being fawned over, Ms Muir calls it "gratuitous viciousness". I call it a taste of your own medicine. Don't dish it out if you can't take it.

Yours truly,
DEBRA COMER,
13 Hop Gardens,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,
September 10.

Alzheimer's research

From Dr Gemma M. M. Jones

Sir, In his article of September 7, "Feeling better for a smoke", Dr James Le Fanu refers to some of my research about nicotine and Alzheimer's disease (AD). Your readers may have been left with some misconceptions.

Research about tobacco, which contains many physiologically active substances, is different from research using purified nicotine. In my research, purified nicotine was injected in low doses, just under the skin in the upper arm, one time only, for each dose given.

It is true that nicotine significantly improved "attentional and information processing" abilities of AD patients, but it would be wrong to suggest that their improvements made them perform at nearly "normal" levels. This is because AD patients performed simpler versions of the tasks than normal control subjects did.

The tasks were calibrated in difficulty to enable a direct comparison between patient and control groups of the same cognitive ability on the same task. The "attention and information

Labour's role outside Parliament

From Dr J. M. Lewis

Sir, According to Mr David Kemp, QC (letter, September 11), the introduction of "one member, one vote" means that "the union block vote will no longer be available to alter the Labour party conference's decision". Yet he overlooks a crucial point: constituency activists at Labour conferences are traditionally well to the left of many trade union "barons" — so that enhancing their power will undermine, not sustain, the moderate cause.

As Richard Crossman observed, 20 years ago, Labour required activists to organise the constituencies but since these militants tended to be "extremists," a constitution was needed which maintained their enthusiasm by apparently creating a full party democracy while excluding them from effective power. Hence the concession in principle of sovereignty powers to the delegates at the Annual Conference and the removal in practice of most of this sovereignty through the trade union block vote (introduced in Bagehot's *The English Constitution*, 1863).

This ceased to apply when many unions shifted radically to the left, but the situation was restored when compulsory postal ballots made union leaders more representative of their own moderate members. In the constituency parties, by contrast, a major survey of 5,065 members as recently as 1990 showed that 71 per cent still favoured more nationalisation, and that 72 per cent still wanted "nothing to do with nuclear weapons".

No fewer than 66 per cent viewed "the class struggle between labour and capital" as the "central question of British politics". Seventy-three per cent thought that workers "should be prepared to strike in support of other workers, even if they don't work in the same place".

Finally, when asked to position themselves on a left-right spectrum in comparison with other Labour party members, only 22 per cent considered

themselves to be on the right of the party, whilst 58 per cent considered themselves on its left — including 17 per cent on the hard left.

If Labour is to avoid jumping out of the union frying-pan into the constituency activist fire, it needs to acknowledge once and for all that the role of the party outside Parliament is to help, to support, to advise and to warn — but not to control the policy of the party inside Parliament.

As long as the myth of conference "sovereignty" is allowed to dominate its thinking, the Labour party will remain in a state of constitutional crisis.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN LEWIS
(Deputy Director),
Conservative Research Department,
32 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1,
September 11.

Stable footing?

From Mr Peter Hardy

Sir, Suppose the chairman of a public company with negative net assets of £17 million reported a further loss equal to nearly 20 per cent of turnover. Even after cutting the staff by 40 per cent he could promise only breakeven for the forthcoming year. Would the shareholders accept this position?

Sir Norman Fowler (letter, September 13) apparently thinks he should be congratulated for "putting the party's finances on a more stable footing". Members of the party might well disagree. Unfortunately they are given absolutely no say in the matter.

Yours etc,
PETER HARDY
(Chairman, Party Accounts Scrutiny Committee, The Charter Movement,
2 Devon Cottages, West Common,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,
September 13.

of different formats with many variations of text and illustration.

A summary of these depredations was published earlier this year by Selwyn Goodacre as a contribution to Judy Taylor's anthology, *So I Shall Tell You a Story*, published by Warner. That book also reprints a classic piece by Rumer Godden, dating from 1963, in which she invents a correspondence between an affronted Bearst Pooter and the editor of the *DeBate* Publishing Co, Mr V. Andel.

The property of this gentleman are already gridding themselves for the "razing and devastating" jobs that will begin on January 1 next year.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN ALDERSON,
28 Victoria Road,
Richmond, North Yorkshire,
September 8.

Rabbit poachers

From Mr Brian Alderson

Sir, Francis Greene is well justified (letter, September 9) in bewailing the treatment of *Peter Rabbit* by Ladybird Books (an associate company of the publishers of the authentic edition). He might like to consider, though, the misfortune of the put-upon bunny on the other side of the Atlantic.

By an unfortunate oversight, Frederick Warne forgot to copyright the book in the United States market when it was first published, and thus, from 1902 onwards, it has enjoyed no protection over there.

Publishers immediately began to bring out their own editions — the first from the Altamira Company in 1904. Ever since then the book has been marketed in dozens, if not hundreds,

Selling Victorian art

From Mr Christopher Wood

Sir, Mr David Gould's rather petulant letter (September 9) calls for an answer. His disparaging remarks about Rossetti and Burne-Jones are especially curious coming from one who used to be a well known collector of Victorian art. More than this, Mr Gould was an expert consultant to Sotheby's Belgravia when they first opened in the autumn of 1971. One can only wonder what has caused him to turn against the artists that he once admired and collected.

It is Mr Gould's views that are now

Clash of channels

From Mrs Annie Roeber

Sir, So Nicholas Kenyon, Controller Radio 3, has decided to continue his tilt at the windmill of Classic FM's younger audience (report, September 10). Locking these two stations in competition decreases listener choice and, true to the BBC's current ageist policies, bypasses the burgeoning percentage of older people, from which Radio 3 has traditionally drawn much of its following.

Yours faithfully,
ANNIE ROEBER,
71a Oxford Gardens, W10.

Rex recalled

From Mr D. H. Brett

Sir, I was nonplussed by the reported statement by Carey Harrison, son of the late Rex Harrison ("Difficult lessons in German", Arts, September 2), that his father "despite the fact he married a German, was still passionately anti-German".

Carey's father's sentiments are understandable, considering he married Lilli Palmer, a German Jewish refugee.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. BRETT,
2 Crooked Usage, Finchley, N3.

processing" abilities of AD patients improved significantly, at the "simple" level at which they were performing the task, when nicotine was administered.

Secondly, the implication that smoking might be good for AD patients is unwarranted from purely a safety perspective: AD patients should not smoke unless strictly supervised because of the very real fire risks.

The use of purified nicotine as a therapeutic agent warrants careful, extensive investigation and, as with the testing of any experimental drug with patients, there is the danger that hopes will be raised beyond realistic expectations.

The additional difficulty in working with nicotine is that it is automatically, though often imperceptibly, associated with tobacco use, which is justifiably a very emotional subject.

Yours etc,
GEMMA M. M. JONES,
Institute of Psychiatry,
Department of Psychology,
Section of Old Age Psychiatry,
De Crespigny Park,
Denmark Hill, SE5,
September 10.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER WOOD
(Director),
Christopher Wood Gallery,
141 New Bond Street, W1.

Yours etc,
ELIZABETH RAY,
66 Regency Square,
Brighton, East Sussex,
September 8.

Professional pride

From Mrs K. D. Smith

Sir, I cannot be the only teacher who is fed up with the term "teacher training" (leading article, August 27; letter, September 4). I had believed it long defunct by the time I qualified at a college of education 22 years ago.

Horses and dogs can be trained, as can doubtless many people for certain jobs or functions. How often, however, does anyone speak of a trained lawyer, doctor or dentist? We are their fellow professionals.

Yours faithfully,
JESSICA SMITH,
1 Theresa Avenue,
Bishopston, Bristol.

Classical contraflow

From Mr Richard Beetham

Sir, Bernard Levin incorrectly quotes (September 7) the New Shorter Oxford definition of boustrophedon as "written from right to left and to left from right in alternate lines".

It actually reads, as it should, "from right to left and from left to right in alternate lines".

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BEETHAM,
108 West End Avenue,
Harrington, North Yorkshire,
September 7.

Uneasy street

From Mr Michael Sydney

Sir, On Friday, September 10, Westminster City Council resurfaced Little St James's Street.

Yesterday, Monday, September 13, British Gas dug several large holes in it.

Is this a record?

I remain, your obedient servant,
MICHAEL SYDNEY
(Director),
James Lock & Co Ltd (hatters),
6 St James's Street, SW1,
September 14.

Business letters, page 7

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 14: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning attended ceremonies at Newark Church, Nottinghamshire, and at RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire, to mark the Reformation of the remains of General Sikorski in Poland.

His Royal Highness was received at Newark Church by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Nottinghamshire (Sir Andrew Buchanan, Bt) and at RAF Waddington by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Lincolnshire (Captain Sir Henry Nevill).

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Earl of Carnarvon at the Funeral of the Earl of Westmorland (Permanent Lord in Waiting and formerly Master of the Horse) which was held at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Basingstoke, this afternoon.

The Countess of Lichfield was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
September 14: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by

the Duke of Beaufort at the Funeral of the Earl of Westmorland which took place at the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Basingstoke, this afternoon.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 14: The Prince of Wales attended the Funeral of the Earl of Westmorland which was held at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Basingstoke, this afternoon.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 14: The Duke of Gloucester, President, British Consultants Bureau, this morning departed Royal Air Force Northolt to accompany the Mission in Ukraine.

Major Nicholas Barne is in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
September 14: The Duke of Kent this morning visited Westminster Palace, 66 Regent Street, London W1.

Her Royal Highness, President, Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief, this evening attended a Dinner in support of the Lord Mayor's Charities, Mansion House, London EC4.

The Countess of Lichfield was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
September 14: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by



Worshippers met at St Andrew's Undercroft in the heart of the City of London yesterday for the first time since the church was devastated by a bomb in April 1992. St Andrew's has been restored at a cost of £600,000, which included replacing the east window. Much of the original glass could not be recovered but skilled craftsmen matched modern glass to the old. Regular lunchtime services resumed yesterday

Brilliant colours sprinkle the RHS autumn show

By ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

DAHLIAS, chrysanthemums, roses and even sweet peas are providing much of the colour at the Royal Horticultural Society's great autumn show. It is slightly early for autumn foliage colour, but there is a sprinkling throughout the show, which opened in Westminster yesterday.

The centrepiece in one of the halls is a giant exhibit of dahlias from Aylett Nurseries, of St Albans, Hertfordshire: 85 cultivars grouped according to colour and ranging from tiny

ponies to giant cultivars. New introductions, like the apricot-coloured variety 'Apricot Jewel', rub shoulders with old favourites. The exhibit won a gold medal.

Among the chrysanthemum exhibits is a display of Korean and spray types from Home Meadows Nursery, of Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Notcutts Nurseries, also of Woodbridge, Suffolk, have a large gold-medal display of trees and shrubs including

berrying kinds like sorbus, crab apples and roses. The collection of ornamental fruits, comes and berries staged by The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens of Ampfield, Hampshire, ranges from the blue cones of *Abies fabri* to the polished crimson hips of *Rosa nutkana*.

Autumn foliage colour can be seen on several stands including Mallet Court Nursery, of Taunton, Somerset, who are featuring the oaks *Quercus rubra* and *Q. imbricaria*, and maples. Pro-

viding brilliant leaf colour are the shrubs *Spiraea betulifolia* and *Euonymus europaeus*. 'Atrorubens' in the display from ELF Plants, of Kingshorpe, Northamptonshire. Chris Bowers, of Wimborne, Norfolk, has staged a collection of trees and shrubs, many with autumn leaf tints, like *Zelkova serrata* and the fern-leaved beech, *Fagus asplenifolia*. Starborough Nursery, of Edenbridge, Kent, has a similar exhibit.

Late-flowering perennials are also providing much of the colour at this show. Kioffias (red-hooded poppies), from 'K. marla' Nobilis, the 'cool' green and cream 'Ice Queen' are being featured by Roughton Hall Nurseries, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Hopflays Plants, of Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, are showing hardy and tender perennials including a collection of *Salvia patens* cultivars with flowers in shades of blue, purple and white.

Among the tender perennials from Brian Hiley, of Wallington, Surrey, who was awarded a gold medal, is a new impatiens - *Impatiens pseudoviolata*, a compact bushy plant covered in small white spurred flowers.

Autumn-flowering gentians from Edrom Nurseries, of Coldingham, Berwickshire, are creating a blue pool among the more vibrant colours of autumn. Two new ones are attracting interest: *Gentiana multiflora* whose stems carry many brilliant blue

flowers, and the pale blue *G. 'Strathmore'*, both easily grown in lime-free soil. The ornamental grasses of Hoeckroft Plants, of Dereham, Norfolk, are in autumn attire and many are flowering.

Many exhibitors are showing autumn-flowering bulbs. There are miniature hardy cyclamen like *C. hederifolium* and *C. gussonei* from the Cyclamen Society, of Ewell, Surrey, which was awarded a gold medal; chalcidiums from Jacques Amand, of Stanmore, London; and small-flowered manis gladioli from 'Rupert Roberts' of Gatton, Surrey.

Bulb specialist Broadleigh Gardens, of Bishop's Cleeve, Shropshire, is featuring crocuses, Avon Bulbs, of South Petherton, Somerset, have staged collections of eucomis and nerines.

Fruits and vegetables are adding to the bounty of this autumn show. The gold-medal display of vegetables from W. Robinson and Sons, of Forton, Lancashire, is colourful. A new climbing French bean, 'Kingdom Gold', with yellow pods, is eye-catching.

Other gold-medal winners are S and N Brackley, of Wincor, Buckinghamshire (sweet peas); The Hop Shop of Sevenoaks, Kent (dried flowers); and Tropical Rain Forest, of Leeds, West Yorkshire (bromeliads).

The show, in the Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

The chaplain's old boat sets off round the world

By LIBBY PURVES

A RETIRED Church of England clergyman and a group of disadvantaged boys will set sail today from Falmouth on a voyage which makes Chay Blyth's British Steel Challenge seem almost pampered in comparison.

The Rev Rob Shepton, newly retired chaplain of Kington Hill School, Oxfordshire, (which caters for boys with special needs) is leading the first ever school party to sail round the world, rounding Cape Horn 'the wrong way' from East to West.

Instead of Blyth's custom-built 67ft steel racing yacht, he is doing it in his family boat: an elderly 33ft GRP Westerly called Dodo's Delight. His crew will consist of four

crucibles at a time, with crew changes at such places as the Falkland Islands and Tahiti. The voyage is financed by Enterprise Sailing, a charitable trust, and is supported by distinguished yachtsmen such as Robin Knox-Johnston and Lieutenant Colonel Ewen Southby-Tailyour. 'Any voyage of this kind involves some danger,' says Mr Shepton, but Dodo's Delight and various

schoolboy crews have previously covered 32,000 miles, making four Atlantic crossings and a voyage to Greenland and Iceland.

Geoff Pack, editor of *Yachting Monthly*, describes Mr Shepton as 'a very quiet, low-key chap. The joke is that with his plastic boat and problem kids, he's got further than a lot of seasoned voyagers. The boat might look like something you'd see in any weekend marina on the South coast, but the new seam in her mainsail was repaired by an Inuit ex-est-captain with the only Singer sewing machine in Greenland'.

Mrs Heather Watson of the Royal Cruising Club, a yachtswoman who has campaigned to raise £47,000 for the cost of the voyage, has no doubts about the seamanship of Mr Shepton and his crew

but insisted on teaching them to cook. 'There was not one proper vegetable knife on that boat,' she said yesterday. 'They'll have to learn to eat properly. A 22-month expedition is a different matter from an eight-week summer cruise'.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the Riding for the Disabled Association, will attend Wiltonshire RDA Group 21st birthday celebrations at Manor Farm, Wiltonshire, near Alford, at 10.30. She will visit the Viking Centre at 11.15 and will open North Somerset School, Warren Road, North Somerset, at 12.30. She will visit Hill House, nursing home and equestrian centre, Sand Lane, Cogswell, Market Rasen, at 2.15, will open Phase 2 development of Lincoln County Hospital, at 3.15, and as Patron of the XXIII congress of EDTA/European Nail Association and the XXII annual conference of the EDTA/European Nail Care Association, will attend the opening of the Glasgow Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre at 5.30.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. High-Smith and Miss C.L. Temperton
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs B. High-Smith, of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, and Caroline Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.D. Temperton, of Edmond, Shropshire.

Mr R. Colby and Miss E.L. Priestley
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr Philip Colby, of Newcastle and Mrs Daphne Colby, of Watford, Hertfordshire, and Emma, daughter of Professor and Mrs Derek Priestley, of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr A.D. Court and Miss S.E. Knight
The engagement is announced between Alistair, elder son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Court, of Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent, and Susan, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Knight, of Wootton, Isle of Wight.

Mr A.M. Dawson and Miss C.M. Maciver
The engagement is announced between Alexander Murray, son of Mr Alexander Michael Dawson and the late Mrs Henrietta Dawson, of Barnstable, North Devon, and Christina Mary, second daughter of Mr Donald Maciver and the late Mrs Christina Maciver, of Arrol, Isle of Lewis.

Mr T.W.G. Murphy and Miss C.S.E. Mead
The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Murphy, of Charlbury, Oxfordshire, and Kate, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Mead, of Corhampton, Hampshire.

Mr A.D. Pease and Miss L.K.H. Regis
The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr D.A. and the Hon Mrs Pease, of Ashill, Somerset, and Lucilla, daughter of the late Mr T.H. Regis and of Mrs T.H. Regis, of Westhampstead, Hertfordshire.

Mr A. Seymour and Miss A.K. Spier
The engagement is announced between Adrian Sean (Addie), twin son of Elie Walter and Lynn Seymour, of London, and Angelina Karen, daughter of Timothy and Margaret Spier, of Brooke, Norfolk.

Mr C.J.L. Thompson and Miss J.P. Morey
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr Andrew Thompson and of Mrs Jack H. Thompson, of Chetole, Dorset, and Jacqueline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Lawrence Morey, of Pailinton, Devon.

Mr J.A. Under and Miss H.P. Bland
The engagement is announced between James, son of the late Major Arnold Under and of Mrs Arnold Under, of Wiltshire, and Hetti, youngest daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Sir Simon and Lady Bland, of Edridge, Kent.

Marriage

Lord Alexander Rufus-Jones and Miss M. Bach
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 4, between Lord Alexander Rufus-Jones and Miss Marjorie Bach, at St Peter's Church, Cornwell. The Rev Glyn Evans officiated.

Reception

Board of Deputies of British Jews
The President and Honorary Officers of the Board of Deputies of British Jews were the guests at a farewell reception held yesterday at Woburn House in honour of the Ambassador of Israel and Mrs Biran.

Birthdays today

Prince Henry of Wales is nine today.
The Rev Professor P.R. Ackroyd, theologian, 76; Mr Richard Arnell, composer and conductor, 76; Mr Charles Bone, mural and watercolour painter, 67; the Rev Canon John G. Brown, former international leader, Salvation Army, 64; Dame Sylvia Crowe, landscape architect, 92; Lord Eden of Winton, 68; Professor Brian Fender, vice-chancellor, Keele University, 65; Viscount Norwich, 64; Mr Glen Renfrew, former chief executive, Reuters, 65; Sir Clive Rose, diplomat, 72; Mr Justice Schiemann, 56; Lady Soames, 71; Sir Peter Studd, former Lord Mayor of London, 77; Mr Graham Taylor, manager, England Football team, 49; Sir Richard Wray, former principal, King's College, London, 79; Sir John Williams, diplomat, 71.

Memorial service

John G. Murray
A service of thanksgiving for the life of John Murray will be held in St James's Church, Piccadilly on Tuesday, October 26 at 11.30am. All are welcome.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Pierre Fournier, engraver and type founder, Paris, 1712; James Fenimore Cooper, novelist, Burlington, New Jersey, 1799; Henry Sweet, philologist, London, 1845; Dame Agatha Christie, celebrated novelist, Torquay, 1891.
DEATHS: Sir Thomas Overbury, writer, poisoned in the Tower of London, 1613; Isambard Kingdom Brunel, civil engineer, London, 1859; John Speke, explorer, Nelson Park, Bath, 1864; William Seward Burroughs, pioneer of adding machines, Andover, Massachusetts, 1892; Thomas Wolfe, novelist, Baltimore, Maryland, 1938; Miss Messerschmidt, aircraft designer, Munich, 1978.
Today is Battle of Britain Day.

Women of the Year Luncheon

Princess Margaret will attend the Women of the Year Luncheon, in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, at the Savoy Hotel on Monday, October 25. The international guest of honour will be Miss Jeanne Moreau. The Marchioness of Lathian, founder president, will preside. The vice-presidents are the Countess of Arlue, Lady Healey, Mrs Charlotte Beckford, Miss Virginia Widdowson and Miss Val Arlue. Mrs Paddy Campbell is executive chairman of the luncheon and the vice-chairman are the Hon Diana Maitland and Miss Roella Benjamin.

School news

Friern Barnet Grammar School
The Autumn Term at Friern Barnet Grammar School began yesterday. Mrs Jacqueline Dowler, Mr John Evans and Mr Ronald Taylor join the academic staff. Hiren Patel of Scott House continues as Senior Prefect. Open Days are on September 29 and October 9. The Poetry-Speaking Competition is on October 13. The Annual Prize Giving will be held in the Church of St John the Evangelist on October 21. Term ends on December 17.

Pocklington School
Pocklington School, East Yorkshire, began the Michaelmas Term on Wednesday, September 8. Head of School is James Watson. Important dates for the diary: Commemoration Day, Saturday, October 23; Open Day, Saturday, November 6; Old Pocklingtonians' London Meeting, Friday, November 12; OP Day at School, Saturday, December 11; Term ends, Friday, December 17.

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

Who is this who dares
compel with words devoid of
knowledge? Brace yourself
and stand up like a lion
and you must answer.
Job 38: 2-3

BIRTHS

ADAMS - On September 14th, in Marie and Ken, a wonderful son, Laurence.

BELLAMY - On 14th September 1993, to Mr and Mrs John Bellamy, a baby girl, Shelby-Jo.

BIRCHAM - On 21st August to Catherine (née Wolfe) and Adrian, a daughter, Elizabeth Anne.

BOWEN - On September 11th to Maryanne (née Lee) and Nicholas, a son, Lawrence.

BUD - On September 4th to Dawn and Jeremy, a daughter, Alexandra Jane, at St Mary's Paddington.

CHIES - On August 31st to Julie (née Sanderson) and Simon, a son, Cameron William Osborne. A brother for Alexander.

FAIRER - On September 17th to John (née Pickett) and Robert, a son, Thomas (née Lee) and Nicholas, a son, Lawrence.

FOOT - On September 10th to Owen (née Hadden) and Fiona (née Hadden), a daughter, Laura Catherine, a sister for Sarah.

GIBBS - On September 6th to the John (née Hadden) and Fiona (née Hadden), a daughter, Laura Catherine, a sister for Sarah.

HALL - On September 12th 1993, to Lisa (née Hadden) and Timothy, a daughter, Elizabeth Anne.

HYMAN - On 9th September to Anna (née Hadden) and Andrew, a son, Charles Joseph.

DEATHS

ANGELOPOULOS-BUTLER - Michael P.P., on 13th September 1993, at short illness. Deceased husband of Jay and father of Timothy and Nicola. Cremation family only, 11.30 am, at St Nicholas, Westminster on Friday 17th September.

COATES - On September 13th 1993, at short illness. Deceased husband of Jay and father of Timothy and Nicola. Cremation family only, 11.30 am, at St Nicholas, Westminster on Friday 17th September.

AUSTIN - Martin on 9th September 1993, at short illness. Deceased husband of Mary and father of John and Robert. Cremation family only, 11.30 am, at St Nicholas, Westminster on Friday 17th September.

SELL - On 11th September, peacefully at home, aged 80, after a long illness. Deceased husband of Dorothy and father of John and Robert. Cremation family only, 11.30 am, at St Nicholas, Westminster on Friday 17th September.

BLANCH - On September 9th 1993, peacefully at home, aged 80, after a long illness. Deceased husband of Mary and father of John and Robert. Cremation family only, 11.30 am, at St Nicholas, Westminster on Friday 17th September.

DAVIS - Jack, retired Ruckhampton County Council, died peacefully at home, aged 80, after a long illness. Deceased husband of Mary and father of John and Robert. Cremation family only, 11.30 am, at St Nicholas, Westminster on Friday 17th September.

DELL - Nicholas Raymond, CBE, on September 10th, peacefully at home, aged 80, after a long illness. Deceased husband of Mary and father of John and Robert. Cremation family only, 11.30 am, at St Nicholas, Westminster on Friday 17th September.

CLARK - Doris, on 10th September, peacefully at home, aged 80, after a long illness. Deceased husband of John and father of John and Robert. Cremation family only, 11.30 am, at St Nicholas, Westminster on Friday 17th September.

MOYSE - On 10th September, peacefully at home, aged 80, after a long illness. Deceased husband of Mary and father of John and Robert. Cremation family only, 11.30 am, at St Nicholas, Westminster on Friday 17th September.

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PANFORTH -

OBITUARIES

DIANA PYM

Diana Pym, political organiser and philhellene, died on September 9 aged 84. She was born at Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey, on October 18, 1908.

DIANA GOUGH — as she was born — was the descendant of attacking warriors. Her own life, however, was dedicated to mitigating the effects of warfare and injustice — in particular the rending effects of the Greek civil war (1946-49), which resulted in the imprisonment and in many cases the torture of thousands of anti-fascist Greek patriots.

She was orphaned at the age of six when her father, Brigadier-General J.E. Gough, VC, then serving as Douglas Haig's Chief of Staff, was fatally wounded while on a visit in February 1915 to his old regiment, the Rifle Brigade, at Fauquissart, northern France. He received the unusual honour of a posthumous KCB.

Both Diana Gough's grandfathers were generals in the Indian Army, one, Sir Charles Gough, being awarded the VC for four separate acts of gallantry during the Indian Mutiny of 1857-58. (Sir Charles's brother Hugh also won the VC.)

Her paternal uncle General Sir Hubert Gough commanded the Fifth Army during the decisive spring of 1918: her maternal uncle, Admiral Sir Roger Keyes, was the hero of the Zebrugge Raid on St George's Day, 1918; and her cousin, Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Keyes, VC, died leading the commando assault on Rommel's headquarters in the Libyan Desert in 1941.

After taking her degree in history at Newnham College, Cambridge, in 1930, Diana Gough married the future architect John Pym. She was later elected a Labour borough councillor for St Pancras, north London, where she played an active part in housing policy and social welfare. Barbara Castle and Krishna Menon, India's future defence minister, were fellow-councillors.

In 1940 she joined the Communist Party of Great Britain, to whose aims she remained faithful throughout her life. During the war she served as an ARP officer in London (motorcycling through the blackout gave her considerable pleasure).

In 1945, through her contacts with the Greek Cypriot community in London, she became secretary of the Greek Maritime Unions. The agency issued the first eyewitness accounts of



Diana Pym during a peace march in Greece in 1966

the prison camps in Eritrea and Sudan, where members of the Greek National Liberation Army (ELAS), taken in Athens while fighting the British in December 1944, were incarcerated. In October 1945 she was appointed honorary secretary of the newly-formed pressure group, the League for Democracy in Greece, under the presidency of Sir Compton Mackenzie and the chairmanship of D.N. Pritt, QC, MP, and for the next 26 years she was the league's unifying force.

The history of the LDG has been summarised in a paper for the *Journal of the Hellenic Diaspora* (summer, 1984), with characteristic modesty, by Diana Pym and the former Marion Pascoe, joint secretary of the League, until her marriage in 1952 to General Sarafis, ELAS's one-time Commander-in-Chief. The league's achievements, however, were singular, and its broad-based archive, given in 1977 to the Byzantine and Modern Greek Department at King's College, London, constitutes a unique historical resource.

The league's aims, in response to what it regarded as Churchill's and the Foreign Office's duplicitous treatment of the Greek wartime resistance movement, included the provision of relief to those Greeks, and their dependants, who suffered for their democratic beliefs and activities. It also worked tirelessly, from a series of small offices, permeated with the aroma of ancient dust, newsprint, duplicating ink and sweet Greek cigarette smoke, for a general amnesty for all Greek democrats imprisoned for political reasons. One early success was an emergency campaign in 1948 which roused the British and American governments to intervene to prevent the mass execution of nearly 3,000 members of the resistance jailed before the outbreak of the civil war. These executions (100 of which took place before they could be stopped) had been ordered by the Greek government as a reprisal for the assassination of the justice minister, Christos Ladas.

The LDG and its sister charity the Greek Relief Fund, which Diana Pym

continued to organise after her retirement from the league in 1971, was responsible for a series of hard-hitting polemical pamphlets, for innumerable small acts of relief to the prisoners' often impoverished families, for translating thousands of letters from British supporters to their "adopted" Greek families, and for maintaining a ceaseless political pressure on members of Parliament.

The league will, however, be most widely remembered for its long campaign for the release from life imprisonment of the Greek seamen's leader Andonis (Tony) Ambatielos, whose Welsh wife Betty was for many years the league's organising officer. In 1963 Betty Ambatielos made front-page news with her scandalous "insult" to Queen Frederika while attempting to present a dignified petition for her husband's release during the Greek queen's state visit to London.

By January 1967, thanks in large part to the LDG's efforts in keeping their cause alive, all but 11 of Greece's political prisoners, including Tony Ambatielos, had been released and it seemed that the league's work might be done.

Then in April came the colonels' coup. Tanks appeared on the streets of Athens and the junta's left-wing opponents were arrested en masse. Diana Pym, who, despite disabling arthritis, relished nothing better than the prospect of meeting injustice head-on, the longer the odds the better, threw herself with renewed energy into the seven-year campaign for the restoration of democratic government in Greece.

The league, whose aims were now (for the first time) supported by politicians of all parties, found that its records and experience were considered invaluable by the many international organisations which formed to combat the junta. With the fall of the Colonels in 1974, the league called a halt to its activities and renamed itself "Friends of Democracy in Greece," under which title it still exists on a stand-by basis.

Diana Pym had a profound and instinctive love of all things Greek and was perhaps never happier than talking for arguments politics with her many Greek friends. She bore long years of ill-health with soldierly fortitude and retained until the end an infectious delight in the exposure of political mischief.

She is survived by her husband, two daughters and one son.

HAROLD INNOCENT

Harold Innocent, actor, died in London on September 12 aged 60. He was born in Coventry on April 18, 1933.

HAROLD INNOCENT was the sort of hard-working character actor who, as is often the case with someone of his talents, never became a household name. Yet his fine, manly figure and crumpled features made him instantly recognisable to film and theatre audiences.

He was an adaptable player, equally at home with farce and tragedy, though he often seemed to have cornered the market in villains and despots. These he played as convincingly complex figures. Even in his last screen role as the corrupt Bishop of Hereford alongside Kevin Costner and Alan Rickman in the lightweight *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* (1991), Innocent managed to appear both sinister and at the same time almost touchingly naive in his greed. That same ability with character was evident when he played the university bursar in *Porterhouse Blue* (1987).

Harold Sidney Innocent was educated at Broad Street Secondary Modern School in Coventry. After school he was briefly employed as an office clerk, a role in which he admitted to having been "absolutely hopeless".

He decided to switch to a career in acting, studying at the Birmingham School of Speech Training and Dramatic Art, and after his National Service in the RAF, went into repertory. A few years later he made the leap to Hollywood, appearing first in *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* in 1959, before landing roles in television series such as *The Barbara Stanwyck Show*.

But it was not until he returned to Britain that Innocent's career really took off. Professional and well-lit in the business, he was for three decades at the centre of important theatre productions at the Nottingham Playhouse, the Lyceum in Edinburgh, the



Harold Innocent as George III in Nick Dear's *In the Ruins* at the Bristol Young Vic, 1989

Young Vic, the National, the RSC and the Bristol Young Vic. In his season at the RSC in 1984 he played Edward IV in *Richard III* and Boyet, an attendant on the Princess of France, in *Love's Labour's Lost*. In *Henry V* he played both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Duke of Burgundy (a role he successfully recreated for Kenneth Branagh's 1989 film version).

It was in Nicholas Hyman's production of Alan Bennett's *The Madness of George III* that he was last seen on the London stage, playing the part of Sir George Baker, one of the king's doctors. The mad king was a subject he was well-acquainted with. He himself played George III in the Bristol New Vic production of *In the Ruins* (1989).

Unlike many distinguished theatre actors, Innocent's talents adapted easily to the small screen and he found employment in many of the television series of his day — *Crown Court*, *The Professionals*, *Minder*, *Inspector Morse* and *EastEnders* (in the last of which he played the part of a child-hating Father Christmas to great comic effect).

As a film actor he was seen in, among other productions, *Grease* (1978), *The Tall Guy* (1983), *Henry V* and *Prince of Thieves*. But as a jobbing actor, he was willing to turn

his hand to most things, whether it was playing a leechy caterpillar in a musical version of *Alice in Wonderland* at the Lyric, Hammer-smith, in 1986, or making his opera debut in the part of Sir Despard Murgaroyd in *Ruddigore* (1987) at Sadler's Wells. Innocent had first thought that the part was beyond him — "but then I heard that Vincent Price had once played it, so suddenly it seemed to be possible". His expressive voice brought him much radio work.

Innocent was a civilised and gentle man who enjoyed the ballet, opera and visiting country hotels with friends (he never married). Michael Rudman, the artistic director of the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, directed him eight times, and remembered him only once getting cross. Rudman was spending slightly too much time talking to another actor and Innocent eventually, in desperation, raised his voice to complain. "Go away, Harold," Rudman said. "Come back when you feel better." Innocent turned on his heel and said petulantly: "I will go away but I will not feel better." From one of the least temperamental actors in the business, this tiny sulk was as near as he ever got to bad behaviour.

STUART ROSE

Stuart Rose, CBE, designer and typographer, died at Coggeshall, Essex, on September 10 aged 81. He was born on October 2, 1911.

STUART ROSE will be best remembered for his long association with the Post Office. He served it first in the grandly titled role of Typographical Advisor to the Postmaster General from 1962 until 1968, and from then until 1976 in the more comprehensive position of Design Adviser. In this latter role he was involved in supervising the many ways — from the architecture of Post Office counters and the design of pillar boxes and vans, through printed matter and stamps — in which

the Post Office presented itself to the public. The appointment spanned a period during which the Post Office began to change from being a dignified, if slightly old-fashioned, Department of State responsible through the Postmaster General to Parliament, into being a modern business with avowedly commercial imperatives.

As Design Adviser, one of Rose's tasks was commissioning designs for postage stamps, sometimes from young or untried artists, and helping to guide them through this often unfamiliar work, under the watchful but more remote gaze of the Stamp Advisory Committee.

He did this more or less single-handed with tact and generosity, encouraging the people he had commissioned.

His success was acknowledged in 1973 when a year's stamp issues were jointly given a Design Council Award, and when in 1974 he was personally given the Phillips Gold Medal for Stamp Design. He was appointed a CBE in the same year. After he retired from the Post Office he remained interested in its work from the sidelines. In 1980 he published *Royal Mail Stamps* (Phaidon) which surveyed the past history of British stamp design and the more recent developments with which he had been associated, with his customary clarity and fairness.

Stuart Rose, the son of Scottish parents, was educated at Magdalen College School, Oxford, where he was a choral scholar, and at the Central School of Arts and Crafts. After a spell working in advertising at Crawfords, laying out advertisements under the lively and original eye of Ashley Havinden, he worked for many years as a freelance typographer, graphic designer and print consultant.

He soon, however, began to develop a specific interest in layout and design, reflected in his six-year period as an editor of *Design* magazine, 1947-53, and his later association with the Design Research Institute, the industrial design partnership, from 1964-68.

It was from there that he went to the Post Office to face the challenge of meeting its changing needs (ironically, the last Postmaster General whom he served was John Stonehouse, who also became the first Minister of Posts and Telecommunications once the Post Office became a public corporation).

Rose was fond of company,

enjoying the Double Crown Club and the Arts Club. He also believed in the importance of design: he was for ten years a governor of his old art school, the Central, and had a long association with the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers (now the Chartered Society of Designers): he was its president in 1965. He saw designers as the guardians of standards rather than as enthusiastic salesmen.

His tastes, too, despite the early Crawford days with Ashley Havinden, were in general for the traditional rather than for the avant-garde; and this was true of his own design work, which was unassuming, careful and impeccable in its own rather traditional idiom. His designs did not break particularly new ground but he followed his bent with care, skill and assurance. In personal manner he was unassuming, polite and kind, though he could be tenacious about things he believed in.

Rose listed drawing, modestly, as a recreation: along with music and the countryside. He belonged to a generation in which typographers preferred only half tongue-in-cheek, the lifestyle of the country gentleman to that of the metropolitan professional. During his working life, he and his wife Dodo (Dorothea) divided their time between a London flat in Balcombe Street, within sight of the famous siege, and a farmhouse in Essex; later they moved to Coggeshall.

In his Essex retirement he continued to enjoy playing the piano and the organ, and he also learnt to be a competent bricklayer. He is survived by his wife and by their two daughters.

AUSTIN TRIPPIER

Austin Trippier, MC, stockbroker, soldier and sportsman, died on August 29 aged 83. He was born in Turn Village, Rossendale, Lancashire, on August 30, 1909.

AUSTIN TRIPPIER was working as a stockbroker in Rochdale when the second world war broke out. He volunteered for the Army, went to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and became a Gunner. He was then posted to the Northumberland Hussars who were attached to the Royal Horse Artillery.

In 1941 Trippier fought in Crete and was awarded the Military Cross for bravery under fire. He was subsequently posted with his regiment to North Africa. There, in June 1942, he was severely wounded in the fierce fighting for the "Knightsbridge" position, southwest of Tobruk, in which Rommel completely outmanoeuvred and outfought the numerically superior British armour. Captured by the Germans, Trippier was reported missing until located in a POW camp in Italy.

After a year he was repatriated as unfit to fight again. He returned to Rochdale for what, however, turned out to be a brief convalescence. Within four months he reapplied to return to active duty. Eventually he returned to his old regiment, the Northumberland Hussars. As a major he was at the D-Day landings, commanding D Battery of the Northumberland Hussars in the assault. He subsequently participated in the Allied advance through France and Germany.

Austin Trippier grew up in Rochdale and was educated at Bury Grammar School. An



outstanding sportsman, he was captain of football and cricket.

After leaving school he worked as an article clerk for Arthur Milne & Co, stockbrokers, in Rochdale. In his free time he continued his sporting career and played in the first XI for Rochdale Cricket Club. The pinnacle of his football career came when he played inside left for Oldham Athletic, at that time in the first division. In 1935 he started his own stockbroking firm in Heywood which he continued until the outbreak of war in 1939.

When he was eventually demobilised, he returned to Rochdale and started up his firm again. He subsequently took over the firm of Arthur Milne & Son, which had first employed him. He became a member of the Oldham Stock Exchange and in 1972 merged with a Manchester firm.

His wife Mary predeceased him in 1974; he is survived by his daughter, who is also a stockbroker, and by his son, Sir David Trippier, the former MP for Rossendale and Darwen, one-time environment minister and former deputy chairman of the Conservative party.



Stuart Rose with the Queen Mother viewing a stamp exhibition at Postal Headquarters in 1972

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UNDER THE CLOCK

AMERICAN 1988 Chevrolet, 1989 Ford, 1990 Honda, 1991 Nissan, 1992 Toyota, 1993 Volkswagen, 1994 Mercedes-Benz, 1995 BMW, 1996 Audi, 1997 Volvo, 1998 Saab, 1999 Skoda, 2000 SEAT, 2001 ŠKODA, 2002 CITROËN, 2003 FIAT, 2004 ALFA ROMEO, 2005 LANCIA, 2006 FERRARI, 2007 PORSCHE, 2008 BENTLEY, 2009 ROLLS ROYCE, 2010 JAGUAR, 2011 LAND ROVER, 2012 RANGE ROVER, 2013 MERCEDES-BENZ, 2014 BMW, 2015 AUDI, 2016 VOLVO, 2017 SKODA, 2018 SEAT, 2019 ŠKODA, 2020 CITROËN, 2021 FIAT, 2022 ALFA ROMEO, 2023 LANCIA, 2024 FERRARI, 2025 PORSCHE, 2026 BENTLEY, 2027 ROLLS ROYCE, 2028 JAGUAR, 2029 LAND ROVER, 2030 RANGE ROVER.

TICKETS FOR SALE

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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TOO OLD TO FIGHT- TOO PROUD TO ASK

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A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF GWYNETH THURBURN, O.B.E.

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THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR JOHN MILAND, AO

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THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR JOHN MILAND, AO

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR JUSTICES' JUSTICE

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ON THIS DAY September 15 1868

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ON THIS DAY September 15 1868

ON THIS DAY September 15 1868

BONNETS AT THE THEATRE

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ANTIS

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Whether you are a Rising Materialist or in the Chattering Class, the marketing people are watching. Alan Mitchell eavesdrops

Two years after the 1991 census was completed, the data is becoming available for exploitation by marketers. In the past two weeks, two database firms have produced new classifications of the entire UK population, drawing on census data. One of the firms, CCN, has divided the nation into 52 distinct groups, ranging from Rising Materialist and Chattering Class, to Graffiti Ghettos and Inner City Towers. The rival CACI finds 54 groups.

Geo-demographic databases such as CCN's Mosaic and CACI's Acom, which drew on the 1991 census, are already well established in marketing circles. But the power of the new generation of marketing databases, of which census information is just one, is creating an upheaval in marketing, as financial institutions, consumer goods companies and retailers realise that they can "micro-market" down to the level of the individual.

The database revolution is being driven by three factors. First, the census has revealed more detailed information than ever — such as type of housing, how many hours individuals work, and ethnic origin — although it cannot provide details on income levels. Peter Furness, a CACI executive consultant, says that CACI's census-based data holds between 9,000 and 12,000 separate pieces of information on each census "enumeration district" of 150 households.

Second is the merging of previously separate data sources. Census data is being overlaid with data from the electoral roll, post office addresses, company director lists, county court judgments, credit reference agencies — and even computer programmes that guess the ages of individuals from their first names. The third factor is sophisticated computer techniques such as neural networks, genetic algo-

Do the ad men snoop too much?

ritms and fuzzy logic. These techniques, developed by the military for pattern recognition, are now being applied to databases to find clusters of like types, or to fill gaps.

The result is ever-better targeting. Unlike previous classification systems usually based on qualitative research and some headscratching, these are based on hard facts. Richard Webber, CCN's managing director, says: "We have quantified many differences in behaviour, from which we can accurately infer differences in attitudes." He has put a classification on every one of the nation's 15 million postcodes — each with about 15 addresses.

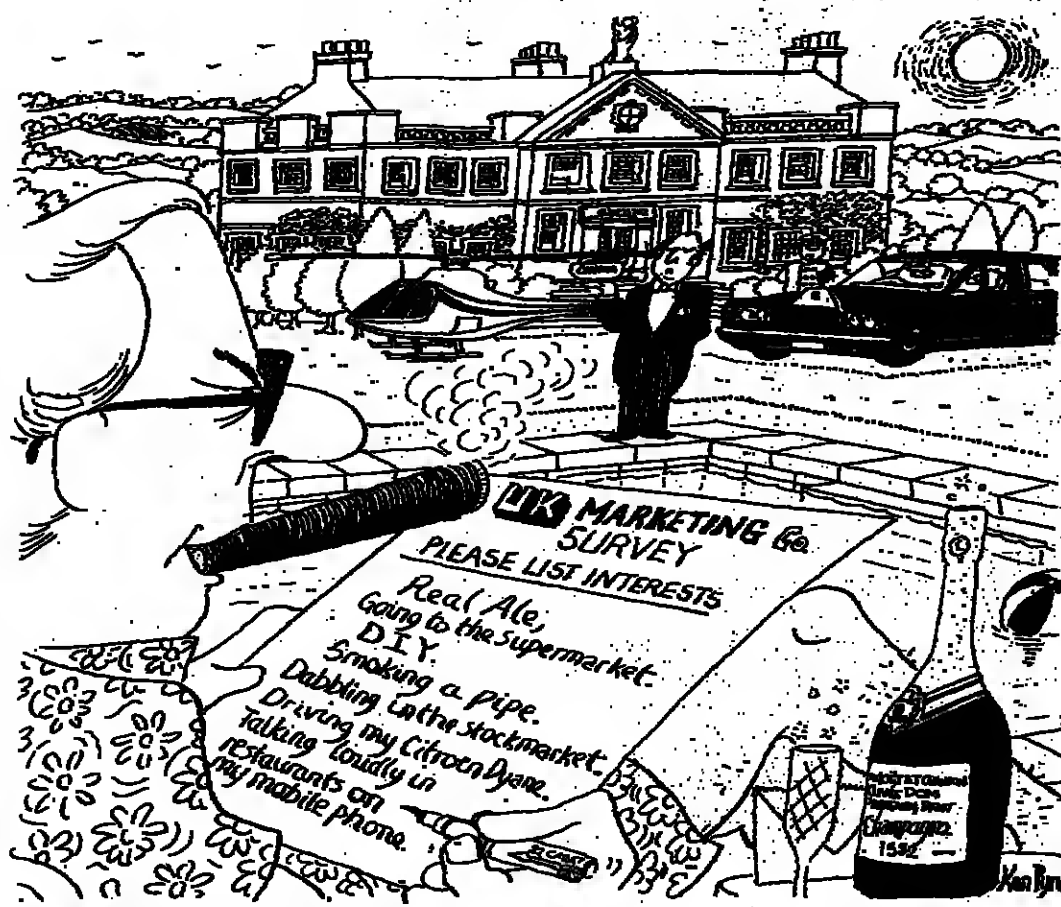
CACI is going a step further. With Household Acom, it is offering what Mr Furness calls "a detailed picture at household level". But the census is just the start. In the next few years, more and more powerful databases will be merged, creating previously unheard of power for the marketer.

Take lifestyle surveys. These are created by specialist companies such as ICD and Computerised

Marketing Technologies (CMT). Each year, they send out millions of detailed questionnaires to consumers and get hundreds of thousands back. ICD's latest mailing produced 800,000 responses. ICD offers marketers details of what brands three million named individuals buy, where they shop, what their hobbies are, what jobs they do and how much they earn. The CMT-owned National Shoppers' Survey (NSS) has 7 million named individuals and about four million households. NDL, its sister company, has more, but less detailed. Both CCN and CACI are merging NSS data with their census-based databases to help marketers further.

The second plank of the coming database revolution derives from electronic point-of-sale data generated by scanning machines at supermarket check-outs. Every time that green light flashes, the price, brand name, pack size, time and date is recorded.

So far, this information has been used to make the supply chain more efficient. But now most of the big grocers are working on the next step: to link it to individuals' names and addresses. They will then



know what you and I buy every week, week in and week out, and use that information to create promotions and build customer loyalty.

The third plank is customer information created by companies in their course of business: bank accounts, insurance claims, telephone calls, new-car buys, the installation of satellite television, and connection and disconnection

of water, gas and electricity (moving house, a trigger for all manner of large purchases, is a veritable marketing gold mine).

"It is just dawning on companies, especially utilities, just how valuable this information is," says Roger Bracewell, a marketing information consultant with Brann Direct.

Marketers want more sophisticated data for three reasons: to

track performance, to gain insight and to target. Only the last comes under the Data Protection Act, and then only if it involves named individuals.

Data matching — the merging of databases for what they were not originally intended — has been of concern to the Data Protection Agency for some years, says John Lamidey, assistant data protection registrar. He has already per-

suaded the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) not to market vehicle registration data.

But, according to Mr Lamidey, organisations such as the lifestyle data companies realise that it is better to work with the Data Protection Agency rather than to fall foul of it. Complaints about junk mail have, he points out, recently plummeted. "Targeting has meant that people are getting less information that is totally irrelevant to them, such as offers for greenhouses to people living in high-rise flats."

Indeed, according to Sean Flanagan, ICD marketing director, as consumers become marketing-literate, they expect sophisticated use of technology and data. "They are saying, 'I am interested in golf, so send me information about golf and don't bore me with football.'"

However, as consumers wake up to the implications of the information age, they could start laying traps for unwary marketers. Bob Tyrrell, chief executive of the Henley Centre, the strategic marketing consultants, says: "The more predictable you become as an individual, the more you might try to make a smokescreen of your behaviour."

Smokescreening during the last general election, he suggests, left opinion pollsters with egg on their faces. The "upper echelons" of society are already past masters at it, he believes. "They deliberately change their icons all the time."

If marketers are not careful, their bid to build relationships with customers and potential customers using these advanced databases may backfire, Mr Tyrrell adds. "If consumers trust the organisation, they'll say, 'fine'. But if there isn't any trust, they'll think, 'Blimey, am I that controlled?'"

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The collage features several prominent newspaper titles and headlines:

- DAILY Mirror**: The top left section.
- FUN! 100,000 Britlin's BREAKS**: A headline below the Mirror.
- BILLS? FORGET 'EM**: A headline at the top right.
- Sun 2011**: Large stylized text across the middle.
- DAILY STAR**: Below the Sun, with the tagline "NEWSPAPER THAT CARES".
- HEAP BIG EXCLUSIVE INJUNS DECLARE WAR ON KEVIN 'COSTER'**: A large headline box featuring a photo of Kevin Costner.
- WITCHEN BRITAIN'S HARDEST BITTING CHILI**: A small article snippet at the bottom left.
- WIN £5000 by filling in the form**: A competition notice next to the chili article.
- See Centre Pages**: Multiple instances of this phrase pointing to various sections.

	NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SALES				
	Avg daily sale	Compared with July 83	+/-	Compared with Aug 82	+/-
Popular market					
The Times	3,832,397	+234,341	6.51	+240,387	6.29
Daily Mirror	2,894,295	+46,502	1.76	+133,306	4.82
Daily Star	816,858	+51,260	8.11	+1,480	0.54
Market totals	7,463,511	+342,103	4.73	+1,177,651	1.63
Midsize market					
Today	570,274	+83,728	4.9	+14,874	3.35
Midweek Express	144,636	+19,413	4.79	-	-
Daily Mail	1,709,420	-35,240	-2.02	-16,939	-0.99
Market totals	3,724,104	-30,855	-0.61	-17,738	-0.68
Quality market					
The Times	354,280	-5,542	-1.54	-15,025	-4.33
D & T Telegraph	1,027,696	+10,713	1.00	-10,082	-0.97
Guardian	397,528	+10,991	2.73	3,372	0.85
Independent	355,626	-8,117	-2.28	-38,651	-10.80
Fin Times	275,516	-13,023	-4.52	-997	-0.36
Market totals	2,374,834	-28,520	-1.19	-70,357	-2.88
Grand total	13,452,249	+262,728	2.55	-24,634	-0.22

SOURCE: ABC, AUGUST *The Daily Express has not been included*

News International now attacks that strategy from above and below. Today maintained its price at 25p last month and the 7p differential with the *Mail* and *Express* attracted 23,700 new buyers; the *Mail* lost 35,000 and the *Express* lost 19,000. Both papers are now also being attacked by *The Times* (and even more *The Daily Telegraph*) from above.

As the dominant market leader of the quality dailies, *The Daily Telegraph*, in common with *The Sunday Times*, the dominant market leader of the quality Sundays, has pursued a policy of extra supple-

Each of the three mass-market tabloids has gained sales after *The Sun's* price cut

A collage of six images arranged in a single row. From left to right: 1. A black and white photograph of two young women smiling. 2. A cartoon illustration of Sonic the Hedgehog. 3. A black and white photograph of a woman with dark hair and glasses. 4. A cartoon illustration of Mario. 5. A black and white photograph of an older woman with curly hair, resting her chin on her hand.

chan with the global music channel MTV. Unlike conventional television, MTV has a fluid — some would say non-existent — structure, designed with the video-literate youth in mind, designed to be surfed, tasted, to be “grazed upon”. Such trends point to a growing estrangement with the printed word. As a 16-year-old wrote recently in *The Spectator*, telling her friends about her clandestine reading habit “would be like saying I

DOM FOULSHAM

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UNITED ARTISTS

Write, enclosing a full CV to:

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term view of replacing him.
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GREG KNIGHT
071 240 0160

NEWS

Unions threaten pay uprising

Furious trade union leaders warned of an industrial uprising after the government announced further pay restraint for five million workers in the public sector.

The statement by Kenneth Clarke freezes the government's overall pay bill but allows for productivity rises. It provoked a string of strike warnings from unions in the public sector including firefighters' leaders who said it brought a national strike closer. Pages 1, 2, 6

British tourists shot in Florida

A British tourist was shot dead and his girl friend was injured by three men who tried to rob them as they slept in their hired car during a Florida holiday. Garry Colley, 34, was hit in the neck and Margaret Jagger was injured when the robbers opened fire at a rest stop near Tallahassee. Pages 1, 3

Accelerating peace

With the logjam in the Middle East peace process broken at last, the momentum increased with a stopover in Morocco by Israel's prime minister and the initialing of an outline peace accord between Jordan and the Jewish state. Pages 1, 9

Cancer hope

Vitamin pills may help to ward off cancer, according to the first large-scale population trial in which deaths from cancer fell by 13 per cent. It adds to evidence that doubling the recommended intake of vitamins and minerals could save thousands. Page 1

Short loses

Garry Kasparov extended his lead over Nigel Short to 3½-½ with victory in the fourth game of The Times World Chess Championship. Page 1, 8

Jet crash

A Lufthansa jet carrying 70 passengers and crew caught fire after running off the runway while landing in bad weather at Warsaw's Okęcie Airport. Page 1

Sixth form reform

Independent school heads joined forces with Labour to demand the abolition of A-levels, intensifying the pressure on John Patten to extend school reforms. Page 2

Sisterly love

A 14-year-old girl has been granted legal aid to start a court action against her mother, who is stopping the daughter from seeing her baby sister. Page 3

Happy Christmas to all our readers

An astronomer claims we should be pulling crackers and carving Christmas turkeys today, on the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of Christ. Dr David Hughes of Sheffield University bases his calculations on astronomical evidence, which points to September 15 in 7 BC as the day when Christ was born in Bethlehem. Page 3

BBC 'Luddites'

Johnny Beering, the outgoing head of Radio 1, launched a fierce attack on the "modern Luddites" who were trying to destroy the BBC from within. Page 4

Civic spirit

Ambitious plans to rebuild the civic spirit in Britain, by active measures to encourage the creation of local and workplace communities, were outlined by the Liberal-Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown. Page 6

EC battle

As the Labour government of Gro Harlem Brundtland celebrated its victory in Norway's elections, the agrarian Centre Party was preparing for "hand-to-hand combat" over the country's EC application. Page 10

Shevardnadze riddle

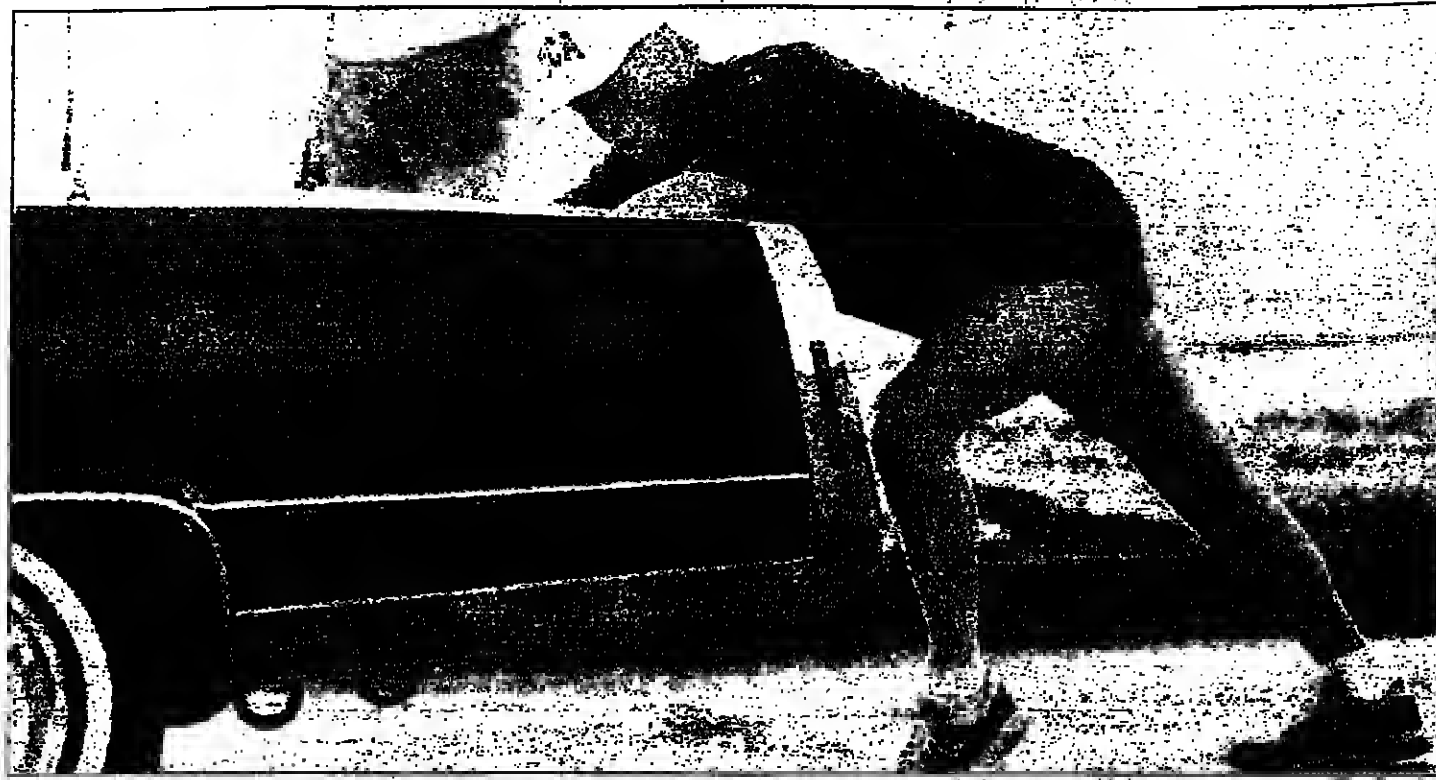
Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, resigned in an attempt to force parliament to give him emergency powers. He said that he might stay on if parliament was suspended. Page 10

Chinese play

In a transparent effort to secure the Olympic Games in 2000, Peking has released Wei Jingsheng, 42, who received a 15-year sentence as a counter-revolutionary and seller of military secrets in October 1979. Page 11

Pop racket denied

EMIS chairman in North America, Charles Koppelman, scorned claims that Britain's pop charts were being rigged. Page 4



Away from the pressures of White House peacemaking, President Clinton stretches his muscles against his car after a jogging run. Page 9

BUSINESS

Lord Pakumbi: The Arts Council chairman has forged an unexpected alliance with Dieter Bock, the joint chief executive of Louth, to develop the controversial number 1 Poultry site in the City. Page 23

Economy: The revival in British manufacturing was more steady last year than previously thought but has been much less healthy in the early part of this year than the government believed and may be running out of steam. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 3.2 to close at 3028.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index slipped from 81.3 to 81.2 based on a fall from \$1.5452 to \$1.5440 and from DM2.4896 to DM2.4835. Page 26

Cricket: Mike Atherton is a sharp observer, preferring to listen rather than talk. David Miller discusses the pressures of leading England to the West Indies. Page 42

Football: Manchester United return to the European Cup tonight after an absence of 25 years. Their manager, Alex Ferguson, said the team would go for goal to perpetuate the attacking football for which United are famous. Page 44

Rugby union: The Nightingale unit for long-term offenders at Feltham Prison has one of the lowest reoffending rates. Inmates learn rugby and officers feel that the discipline and team spirit helps them return to real life. Page 44

Lurid life: The portrait which emerges of Edith Piaf is one of a woman whose life was so packed with misery and grandeur that she hardly needed to embroider it as she did. Charles Bremner on the chanteuse. Page 14

Actor's gambler: For 30 years, Marius Goring has been engaged in a vicious battle with Equity. If he loses the next round, he loses everything. Page 15

Ever-better targetting: Two years after the 1991 census, data is becoming available for exploitation by marketers. What companies know about your personal life. Page 20

Playwrights as poultry? David Mamet, whose *Oleanna* moves into the West End tonight, denies that he is a crusader against political correctness. "I'm a big chicken, really I am," he tells Benedict Nightingale in his first interview for two years. Page 37

Sun-dried Whicker: Joan Collins's asides to Alan Whicker, her fellow judge in a Miss World competition in Sun City, Bophuthatswana, were the highlights of Whicker's *Miss World* last night. Page 37

Celebrating in style: Sir Michael Tippett's *Midsummer Marriage*, provided New York City Opera with a centrepiece for the company's 50th celebrations. Page 38

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Go west young skiers

Swapping the apres-ski glühwein for Budweiser? Dedicated skiers, attracted by reliable snow records, are off to North America.

Dial M for Motherland

Test your knowledge of the letter "M" in the Great British Quiz from Bamber Gascoigne's *Encyclopedia of Britain*.

Dancing in the aisles

The Tina Turner story is hardly the film to redefine the genre of cinema biography. But the soundtrack is enough to set a deaf person dancing.



The remains of General Sikorski, Poland's wartime leader, were flown to Poland having been exhumed from a war cemetery in Britain. Page 2

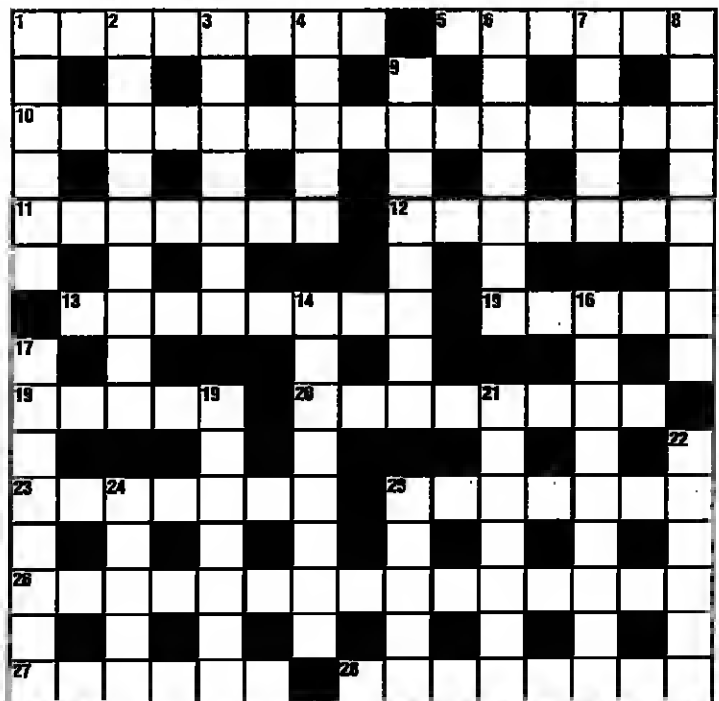


Kimberly Paumier, an American resident of Bath, who has been listed as city centre manager to clean the Georgian city's tarnished image. Page 4



President Mitterrand, 76, who is recovering from prostate cancer, had to be helped by an aide at the residence of the South Korean president. Page 10

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,336



- ACROSS**
- Like a native of Aleppo or a Ninevite, perhaps (6).
 - Sweet dessert for a festive occasion (6).
 - Run away with the stock, and make us hit the roof (3,3,6).
 - Old Greek's back trouble is caught in time (7).
 - There's no end to such behaviour (7).
 - Novel publicity about family of young gang member (8).
 - Give way to fellow Elk outside (5).
 - Adapt, subsequently swapping leaders (5).
 - Hamper found by new copper in remains of fire (6).
 - Time to confer a title, say (7).
 - Settle with Queen's Counsel — a senior one (7).
 - Child he found in county cricket stadium? Absolutely (4,2,3,6).
 - Man seen around Sandhurst, not in Saint-Cyr (6).
- DOWN**
- Recklessly determined male graduate with medical specialism (4,4).
 - First after a fine is imposed for public disturbance (6).
 - It receives a plug about Kentucky Republican — a high-flyer (3,6).
 - Tough bird in a novel (7).
 - Performance upset a small number in London (5).
 - Defenceless but intact, as the cockneys say (7).
 - Move with cable, giving many a slight advantage (5).
 - Riches sought by game hunters? (8).
 - A child awkwardly clutching the King of Arms (8).
 - Sloth, possibly, restricts growth of garden vegetable (8).
 - Familiar game played in the pub (4,5).
 - Degrees given to Fellow discovering extinct mammal (8).
 - Stick mostly carried, say, in races (7).
 - With grub a student had this to drink (7).
 - Money available on leaving a Devon town (6).
 - Someone we respect for being more up-to-date (5).
 - Railwaywoman rarely on the staff these days (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,335

ABATIS ETCHEING
A N O U
PAINCHANT MARK
S B I N E S S
HARDBACK LITTER
R I A M
ETNA NIGHTCAP
O T G E H I
LUKEMARRA UNDO
C N A N
SHAVEN COMEDIAN
D E A H O E B
POST BRIDEGROOM
W C I N B E D
UNCHAIRISTE ALIBIED

Concise Crossword, page 44

THE TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701	Greater London	701
East of London	702	East of London	702
South East	703	South East	703
West of London	704	West of London	704
North East	705	North East	705
North West	706	North West	706
Yorkshire	707	Yorkshire	707
West Midlands	708	West Midlands	708
East Midlands	709	East Midlands	709
South West	710	South West	710
North Wales	711	North Wales	711
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North Wales	713	North Wales	713
South Wales	714	South Wales	714
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South Wales	716	South Wales	716
North Wales	717	North Wales	717
South Wales	718	South Wales	718
North Wales	719	North Wales	719
South Wales	720	South Wales	720

Weathercast is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 46p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731	London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
London & SE traffic, roadworks	732	London & SE traffic, roadworks	732
London & SE traffic, roadworks	733	London & SE traffic, roadworks	733
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WEATHER

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MIDDAY: 1 = thunder, 2 = drizzle, 3 = fog, 4 = sun, 5 = clear, 6 = rain, 7 = hail, 8 = snow, 9 = ice, 10 = rain, 11 = hail, 12 = snow.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Abertawe	23	73	1	Abertawe	23	73
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Abertawe	23	73	1	Abertawe	23	73
Abertawe	23	73	1	Abertawe	23	73
Abertawe	23	73	1	Abertawe	23	73

A chance to live where the great writers lived

David Mamet and Oleanna: speaking for the first time

United plan to attack in 100th game in Europe

VACANCIES IN
ARTS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES
Page 31

THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 1993

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS
TODAY

RECOVERING

TAYLOR WOODROW

Taylor Woodrow has returned to the black thanks to cost cutting by the recently appointed chairman
Page 25, *Tempos* 27

SCRIMPING

The Japanese are impressed at British motor component savings, even at one tenth of a penny
Page 27

BRACING

NATIONAL EXPRESS

National Express profits slowed down because of redundancy costs and rail competition
Page 26, *Tempos* 27

THE POUND

US \$ 1.5440 (+0.0015)
German mark 2.4838 (+0.0061)
Exchange index 81.2 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 3028.0 (+3.2)
Dow Jones 3508.06 (+26.16)
Nikkei Avg. 20947.79 (+200.32)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 5%
3-month interest 5 1/8%
US Federal Funds 2 1/4%
3-month Treas. Bills 2.99-2.98%
Long Bond 5.95%

CURRENCIES

New York: London £1.5440
\$DM 1.6066 \$DM 2.4813
\$SWF 1.2975 \$SWF 2.1094
\$FY 5.6015 \$FY 8.6750
¥Yen 108.80 ¥Yen 163.53
SDR 1.0919 ECU 1.2861
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Posing (\$)
AM 342.05 PM 343.70
Close 345.00-345.50
New York:
Close 345.75-346.25

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 140.7 July (1.4%)
* Denotes midday trading price

New figures cast cloud on upturn hopes

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

THE revival in British manufacturing industry was more steady last year than previously thought, but has been much less healthy in the early part of this year than the government believed and now appears to be running out of steam, according to figures from the Central Statistical Office.

Extensive changes in the way the statistics are compiled provide a dramatically different picture of the path of recovery than the one on which policymakers were basing their assumptions at the beginning of this week. Yesterday's figures prompted some City economists to call on the Chancellor to lower interest rates again.

The export-led manufacturing boom, hailed as the basis for a sustainable economic upturn, has proved to be far less robust than previously thought — about half as good. Notably, export volumes have turned out to be much less healthy than thought.

The CSO said it had revised down its estimates for manufacturing production in the first quarter from growth of 2.1 per cent to only 1.2 per cent.

The estimate for growth in manufacturing in the second quarter was cut to only 0.6 per cent from 1.4 per cent.

The estimate for underlying growth of manufacturing industry, provided monthly by

Revelations of lower growth than previously announced in British output have prompted fresh calls in the City for interest rate cuts to boost the flagging economy

CSO statisticians and treated with an element of caution, has collapsed. Only last month, the CSO estimated trend growth of about 5 per cent. This month, it estimates manufacturing is growing at only 1.5 per cent annually.

Manufacturing output actually bounced back after a sharp fall of 2.1 per cent in June, rising 0.7 per cent. However, as economists at James Capel pointed out, the level of output in July was still 0.3 per cent below the average growth rate, in the second quarter. James Capel noted that forward-looking indicators remained positive but added: "Further reductions in interest rates are needed to ensure overall GDP growth retains momentum."

Taking the CSO's preferred series of three-month figures, year-on-year growth rates in manufacturing appear to have decelerated. Output rose 2.2 per cent in the three months to July compared with a year ago. The equivalent growth rates were 2.3 per cent in June and 2.6 per cent in May.

Total industrial production, which includes the energy sector, rose 0.8 per cent in July after a revised fall of 1 per cent in June. In the latest three months, total production was

up by 1 per cent on the previous three months and up 3.2 per cent on the same period a year earlier. Total production was much less affected by methodological changes, re-basing and reclassifying by the CSO this month. Ian Harnett, chief economist at Strauss Turnbull, said: "These figures don't change our view of economic growth overall this year. What they mean is that the manufacturing performance this year hasn't been as spectacular but that the dire performance of last year wasn't as bad as we thought."

The old CSO figures showed manufacturing had picked up in the first half of 1992 but declined again in the second half. The new CSO figures show that manufacturing output rose for three quarters and then flattened — but did not fall — in the fourth quarter.

The main reason for the huge manufacturing revisions was a new way of calculating export volumes, taking export prices as well as domestic prices into account. Beforehand, only domestic prices were used, exaggerating export volumes as sterling was depreciating.

Crying foul, page 24
Tempos, page 27

Barclays to make 500 compulsory job cuts

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS Bank is to make 500 compulsory job cuts in its branches in London and the South East, as it has been unable to meet its job reduction targets using voluntary schemes.

It is the first time the bank has used compulsory redundancies to cut back its workforce and it is thought likely to lead to further compulsory job cuts in other parts of the country. The jobs are expected to go by Christmas.

The Barclays move has enraged Bifu, the finance union, which has pledged to fight compulsory dismissals. Linda Gregory, a Bifu negotiating officer, said the union, which represents 12,000 Barclays staff, will oppose the compulsory

redundancies and will be investigating opportunities for industrial action. Bifu will meet Barclays managers to discuss the plan today.

Ms Gregory said the bank had rejected the alternative of a register of staff prepared to take voluntary redundancy at some stage in the near future. She said Barclays has almost met its target of 1,235 redundancies in London and the South East this year, with 1,111 jobs going. She claimed Barclays had been turning down volunteers.

John Cotton, the bank's personnel director, confirmed that this year's target for job cuts in the area had increased but said the bank's target of 18,000 redundancies between

1990 and 1995 had not changed. Barclays has achieved staff reductions of 13,500 since 1990.

Up to now, banks have, for the most part, managed their job reduction programmes, which are caused by centralising back office procedures, introduction of new technology and branch closures, through voluntary redundancies.

National Westminster cut 950 branch jobs through a compulsory scheme last year. It reversed the policy this year, when it plans to shed 4,000 jobs, introducing a voluntary redundancy register and a variety of redundancy packages in order "to give staff the option of leaving in the way that suited them best".



Lord Palumbo, left, and Dieter Bock examine a model of their proposed development of 1 Poultry, in the City

Bock and Palumbo join forces

BY MELVYN MARCUS, CITY EDITOR

LORD Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, has forged an unexpected alliance with Dieter Bock, the joint chief executive of Lomrho, to develop the controversial 1 Poultry site in the heart of the City.

Although Mr Bock is best known for his "indivisible" role alongside Tiny Rowland, at Lomrho, the proposed deal is a private venture and will not involve the multinational.

A 50/50 joint venture is proposed between the two property developers with Mr Bock putting up funds equivalent to the value of the Poultry site, which lies next to the Bank of England. Advanta, the Frankfurt real-estate enterprise in which he controls an 80 per cent interest, will provide "all necessary funding" during the construction stage and will manage the development. This will be Advanta's first development in the UK.

Mr Bock told *The Times*: "We were introduced by mutual friends at the turn of the year, partly because of our common interests in architecture and art." Lord Palumbo said: "I needed a founding partner and it was essential to try and find someone sympathetic with similar aspirations... We developed an instant rapport from the first moment we met."

Mr Bock, it may be recalled,

is reputed to have had a similar effect on Mr Rowland during the discussions which preceded his agreement to invest £135 million in Lomrho. Mr Bock's remarkable ability to conjure up funds is matched only by his reticence regarding specific financing details. Neither of the developers would be drawn over the cost of the project "because we have not yet had the tender result". Outsiders put the value of the Poultry site at about

£25 million, with development costs upwards of £50 million.

Heated debate has surrounded the Poultry complex, designed by the late Sir James Sterling, for years. Prince Charles described the project, which necessitates the demolition of eight listed Victorian buildings that converge on Mappin & Webb, the jewellers, as something akin to a "1930s wireless set". In contrast, Charles Jencks, architectural critic, said: "It looks back

to the past without becoming pastiche, and forward to the future, without denying the continuity of culture."

Work on 1 Poultry, which will encompass offices, shops, and two gardens at roof level, one with a 150-seat restaurant, will start next spring. Completion is scheduled for 1996 when, according to Mr Bock and Lord Palumbo, there will be a shortage of new top quality office buildings "in the City's inner core".

DELTA

	1993	1992
	£m	
Turnover	428.3	402.3
Profit before interest	33.0	32.6
Profit before tax	29.1	31.0
Earnings per share	12.5p	12.7p
Ordinary dividend	4.2p	4.2p

"We will continue to seek strategic acquisitions which develop our businesses and, as our markets come out of recession, an increasing emphasis is being placed on internally generated growth with a number of key commitments already made."

Geoffrey Wilson,
Chairman

Copies of the Interim Report for the six months ended 3rd July 1993 from which the above is an extract are available from 17th September from the Secretary, Delta plc, 1 Kingsway, London WC2B 6XF.
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Davies gets the answer he wants

So there we have it. The people have spoken on state pensions. According to Howard Davies, director-general of the CBI: "The public is ready to support a long-term strategy to move to equality at 65." The source of this confident statement was a survey of 880 people commissioned from Gallup by the CBI, which favours women not getting a state pension for a further five years when Britain complies with European Community case law to make everyone the same. It found that, of those expressing an opinion "52 per cent would not wish to see 60 adopted".

The CBI therefore states boldly: "More people want the government to equalise state pensions at 65, rather than have to meet the costs of equality at 60" and Mr Davies sagely reasoned: "These findings show that people have a much better understanding of the realities of this important issue than is generally appreciated." Do you smell a rat here? You are right. This was one of those surveys designed, cynically and dishonestly, to come up with the answer the questioner wanted.

The actual question asked said: "If an equal state pension age of 60 were introduced for all people, this would

cost an additional £4 billion per year, which would have to be paid in terms of either cuts in other areas of social security or an increase in income tax. Would you wish to see age 60 adopted on this basis?" Phew. No phasing-in here and, it seems, no other ways of raising tax or cutting spending. Astonishingly, given this lead-loaded question, 48 per cent of people, and probably a majority of men, still wanted retirement age at 60.

Indeed, 60 per cent of those over 45 were prepared to defy the gun pointed at their head. Until this survey, I would have found it hard to believe so many would pay the heavy cost of what most, apart from the TUC, have long thought an impractical option.

Imagine what the answer might have been had the question been phrased somewhat differently? Say: if the retirement age for women was moved to 65, up to a million people would eventually be added to the unemployed, many of them with young families, who would have to be kept by the state, requiring wide-

spread hospital closures or VAT on food. On this basis, do you favour an equal retirement age of 65? The CBI did not ask this question. Indeed, it

did not ask respondents whether they favoured equalisation at 65 at all, merely assuming that was the sole alternative and enquiring how long the transitional period should be.

Yet Mr Davies claims that the answers "offer clear pointers for government policy" that the public will support equality at 65. Really. One wonders whether the rest of the advice with which Mr Davies continually bombards the Cabinet is based on similar authority.

The serious debate is not even about the question the CBI asked. There are two financially practical and widely canvassed alternatives to equal state pensions at 65. The first is that the age should be fixed to have a neutral effect on public finances, 63 according to the government actuary. The second, more imaginative, alternative is that men and women should

be offered a choice of retiring at any time between the ages of 60 and 70, with their pension varying according to how early they retire. Whitehall is suspicious of this option, assuming all are workshy and would retire as soon as possible.

The flexible decade of retirement hardly comes in the bright but silly category: it is promoted by the English and Scottish actuaries. Their thinking is grounded in the realities of the world of work. The norm of a single retirement age no longer fits the way most people choose, or are obliged, to live their lives, as CBI members know. Vast legions of men in their fifties have been pushed into permanent unemployment, retirement or semi-retirement while many women find their careers stunted by retirement at sixty.

Government could and should be allowing people choice that could really improve their lives. How interesting it might have been had the CBI asked how people would respond to that choice. I can only assume that the CBI was so desperate that it dared not offer real alternatives or even ask people to back its own antediluvian idea. Had it done so, the public would surely have rejected it.



GRAHAM
SEARJEANT

Public sector cries foul as CBI tactics pay off

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

HOWARD Davies, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, managed to contain himself admirably yesterday in describing the new public sector pay restraint announced by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, as a "sensible approach... and one which the CBI has been advocating for some time".

In fact, after this year's 1.5 per cent pay limit was set following the urging of the Mr Davies, formerly of the Treasury, the Chancellor's new pay package adopts virtually every-

thing the CBI pressed him to do on public sector pay. As Clive Brooke, general secretary of the IRSF tax staffs' union, put it yesterday: "If Howard Davies had asked the Treasury for toast with jam on it as well, he probably would have got that too."

What Mr Clarke announced was music to the CBI's ears: no specific pay settlement figure, no increases above rises indicated by current cash planning unless justified by performance, different pay arrangements for different bargaining groups and a clampdown on the work of the pay review bodies. All but a clean sweep.

Mr Davies will today move to stave

off some of the criticism of his role from public sector unions — they regard his intervention as inappropriate, especially when the CBI has done nothing to restrain the earnings of senior company executives — when at a meeting of the CBI's council he will urge private sector companies to maintain low pay increases.

Public sector unions will regard such moves as little more than cynical exercises in covering tracks. They have seen such CBI exhortations over the years, and seen them ignored. They do not believe the CBI has any powers to influence pay set by its own members and thus see his

impact on public sector pay as unfair. The unions' problem is poorly that they have none of the influence enjoyed by the CBI with this government, though the advent of John Monks as TUC general secretary could improve that. But the unions were also slower to make contact with the Treasury over pay this year.

Earnings figures since the Conservatives came to power show the public and private sectors swapping pay leads — usually because the private sector tends to stream ahead, prompting large pay increases in the public sector to catch up.

Figures from the government's

1992 New Earnings Survey suggest that the overall level of public sector pay was then higher than that in the private sector — a weekly average of £307.80 compared to £303.30. Figures for this year will be unavailable until the end of the month, but the government's monthly earnings figures show that rises in private sector manufacturing industry have remained stubbornly stuck at 5 per cent while those in the service sector have fallen consistently to almost half that — driven by the low increases in the public sector.

Winter battles, page 2

Elusive Gatt deal haunts IMF's annual meeting

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington next week will be overshadowed by disappointing growth in the world economy, notably in the industrialised countries, and by the ever more pressing need to conclude an international deal on world trade under the auspices of Gatt.

In its annual report, the IMF said that though world economic activity had recovered slightly, the upturn was below expectations and characterised by "a persistence of low or negative growth in most industrial countries, together with high levels of unemployment and continuing structural impediments to growth."

The fund expressed particular concern over continuing economic downturn in Japan, "economic stagnation or decline" in most countries in Europe and a further weakening in the performance of much of Africa. It also noted continuing and, in some cases, worsening economic developments in the countries of the former Soviet Union. But it welcomed the "impressive" growth in many developing countries, particularly in South East Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

The IMF will give an updated world economic outlook next Wednesday at the start of

The International Monetary Fund says the world economy has recovered a little. But the fund is still concerned by lack of growth in most industrialised countries

its annual meeting. On the agenda will be the need to continue co-ordinating world economic policies to achieve non-inflationary, sustainable growth where industrial countries have been underperforming.

The Fund will also examine its progress in stabilising and reforming former centrally planned economies of eastern Europe, which will include a discussion on whether a new allocation of SDRs (special drawing rights) may be needed to bolster reserves of developing countries without forcing them to borrow more expensively on capital markets.

Another important consideration will be what should replace the Fund's Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility, loans conditional on economic reforms for the world's poorest nations, when the cut-off for commitments comes in November. The Fund's discussions so far suggest something similar to the ESAF will continue.

The report did not entirely pin the blame for economic stagnation in Europe on persistently high interest rates but suggested European countries should undertake exten-

sive reforms of their labour markets to make them more competitive. In the case of France, the IMF highlighted the rigidities it said were inherent in generous unemployment benefits and the minimum wage law.

It expressed disappointment in Britain's wage performance — despite the fact that unit labour costs have fallen to historically low levels. The IMF said that, although there had been a significant deceleration in wage rates, this was still disappointing given the "severity of the recession and the rise in unemployment".

It also reiterated its view that Britain, and many other European countries, should take prompt steps to tackle its fiscal position but "in a way which would not stifle recovery".

On the tribulations of the exchange-rate mechanism, the Fund suggested future crises could be averted if frequent, small changes were made to ERM parties in combination with greater efforts to promote economic convergence. It also suggested an increase in the supply of official reserves or official lines of credit.



Robert Crandall, who cut back San Jose operations

Vicious price war aimed at USAir

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

THE first direct attack on USAir, British Airways' American associate, starts today, with a vicious price war, which will cut fares by up to 86 per cent and offer one-way flights for as little as \$13 (\$20).

It is being dubbed the peanut war. Those airlines attacking USAir's primary routes along America's East Coast are "no frills" carriers, with peanuts the closest to a meal being served.

The fight comes amid more dire warnings of the state of the US aviation industry. American Airlines, its largest carrier, said it would cut 5,000 jobs by the end of next year, ground 11 DC-10s and cut capacity by 45 per cent.

The attack on USAir comes from Southwest Airlines and Continental Airlines and will cover more than 50 short-haul routes. Southwest Airlines will begin its service today, claiming advance bookings of 89,000 passengers. Continental Airlines will join the fray on October 1.

Southwest, based in Texas, has built itself into the seventh largest carrier, dominating 100 short-haul routes. When it moved into San Jose in June, its service was so popular that Robert Crandall, American Airlines' chairman, cut back his company's operations.

Shares of USAir eased 25 cents to \$13.875 yesterday, as it emerged that the airline has filed plans to raise a further \$500 million.

Spain agrees to limit state aid for steel

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

THE European Commission has removed one of the main roadblocks to an EC-wide deal to reduce steelmaking capacity by concluding an agreement with Spain over state aid to its troubled steel mills.

British, German and French steelmakers had warned the commission that they would be unable to commit themselves to the Brussels plan for the voluntary reduction of 30 million tonnes of crude steel capacity, and the elimination of 19

million tonnes of rolled product capacity, unless serious steps were taken to halt heavy subsidies to state-owned steel firms in Italy and Spain.

A commission spokesman said yesterday that Brussels was about to approve the main elements of the Spanish agreement, which foresees lower aid and privatisation of a planned mill. An agreement with Italy concerning Ilva, its hugely indebted steelmaker, is expected by the mid-October, the spokesman added.

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Dated 15 September 1993

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Taylor Woodrow turns the corner with £10m profit

By PATRICIA TEHAN

TAYLOR Woodrow, the building contractor and property group, returned to the black in the first half of the year with pre-tax profits of £10.1 million, against £16.9 million losses in the same period last year.

In spite of the improvement, the interim dividend has been maintained at last year's token 0.5p and is not likely to be increased at the end of the year. Colin Parsons, chairman, said: "I am mindful of the interests of shareholders, but at the moment I am seeking to rebuild the balance sheet and strengthen the company."

Mr Parsons said that recent structural changes "have put Taylor Woodrow back on track towards the level of performance which our shareholders expect."

Group turnover rose from £594.4 million to £622.6 million. Earnings per share were 1.3p, against a 3.7p loss per share in the 1992 first half.

The contracting side, was experiencing poor margins, Taylor Woodrow said. "Although conditions are highly competitive, the company sees no reason at this point why it should not achieve its initial objective of eliminating contracting losses in 1993," it said.

Contracting turnover fell from £435.1 million to £418.8 million, but the division reduced its losses from £10.4 million to £3.4 million.

Mr Parsons said: "We really do not feel that there is going to be a quick upturn in major contracting. He spoke of "razor thin" margins and of over-capacity in the contracting sector and said that Taylor Woodrow's own order book was substantially lower.

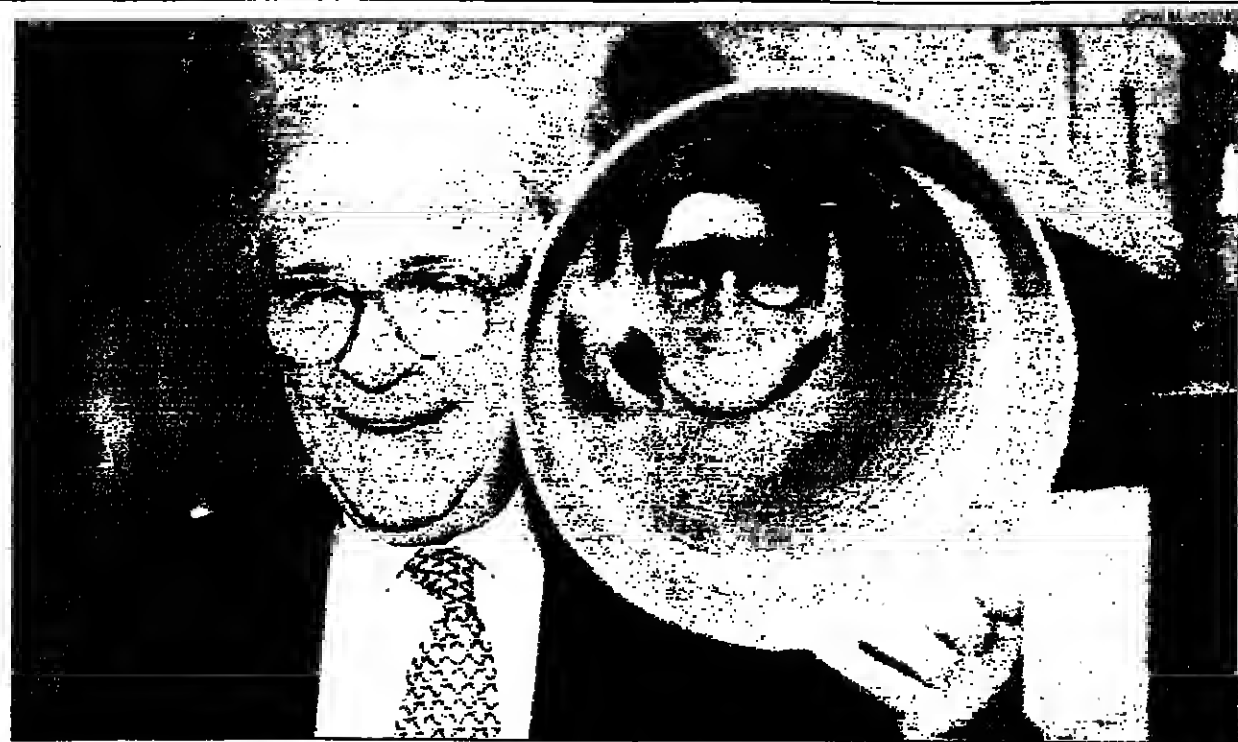
Worldwide housing and lots sales worldwide rose 34 per cent, to 1,095, in the first half and the division is seeing continued improvement into the second half.

Housing, Taylor Woodrow's second-biggest business, contributed £91.3 million to turnover and profits of £3.9 million, after £16.4 million losses in the first half of 1992.

Property businesses made a pre-tax profit of £6.5 million, up from £4.2 million in the same period last year. The company said it was still too early to form a view about the likely year-end valuation of the properties and gave warning that "there may well be some write-off at the year end as a result of lower valuations of the portfolio", particularly the Canadian portfolio.

The trading and financial business saw profits fall by £2.6 million, to £3.1 million, though turnover was up from £50.7 million to £55.5 million. Gearing at the end of the six months was cut to 27 per cent, from 44 per cent at the end of 1992. Net debt has been reduced by £87 million to £143 million.

Tempos, page 27



Kevin McDonald, left, Polypipe chairman, and Bryan Stock, finance director, have more cash in the pipeline

Round-the-clock Polypipe boosts payout

MANUFACTURING efficiencies including round-the-clock use of machinery helped Polypipe, the plastic piping and fittings maker, to boost the total dividend payout on the back of increased profits for the year to end-June (Martin Flanagan writes).

A final dividend of 1.44p makes a total

of 2.10p, against 1.97p last time, while taxable profits have risen by more than 11 per cent to £17.1 million.

The performance owed little to Polypipe's markets, which remained difficult, but more to product development, investment in plant and tooling and expanding the core business. Acqui-

sitions contributed about £50,000 to pre-tax profits, said Bryan Stock, finance director. He added that the payroll in the year had increased by 100 to 1,680.

Polypipe spent about £12.5 million to improve production plants. Earnings per share in the period rose from 6.69p to 7.40p.

Trinity to convert stock units

By RODNEY HOBSON

TRINITY International, the publisher of the Post and Echo newspapers in Liverpool, is to convert its ordinary stock units into ordinary shares with full voting rights.

Pre-tax profits rose from £7.4 million to £9.4 million in the six months to June 26, and the interim dividend is increased from 2.7p to 3p. Earnings per share are 9.2p (8.8p).

The 12 management shares, which are the only Trinity shares to have full voting rights at present, will each be converted into ten ordinary shares. These will be sold in the market for the benefit of the company.

Philip Graf, chief executive, said institutional investors were unable or unwilling to invest in ordinary stock or shares which carried limited voting rights. The enfranchisement of the ordinary stock units should, therefore, increase the number of institutions prepared to invest in the company and should enhance the marketability of the company's shares.

Mr Graf said the return of consumer confidence meant an encouraging start to the third quarter for the papers.

Kingfisher flies to 31% advance

By OUR CITY STAFF

KINGFISHER, the Woolworths B&Q group, defied the patchy recovery on the high street with a strong rise in profits, boosted by a first-time contribution from Darty, the leading French electrical retailer acquired this year.

Pre-tax profits rose 31 per cent from £62.8 million to £82 million for the six months to July 31. Excluding a £16.1 million contribution from Darty for the last two months of the period, operating profit from Kingfisher's British retail operations still rose 8 per cent. Progress was made across the board with all the major chains showing like-for-like sales growth and gaining market share.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, Kingfisher's chairman, said the "robust performance" reflected the group's strategy of delivering "maximum value and everyday low prices" to customers. The aggressive pricing strategy, squeezed margins, but Sir Geoffrey, in marked contrast to many of his rival retailers, insisted the group's aim was to drive

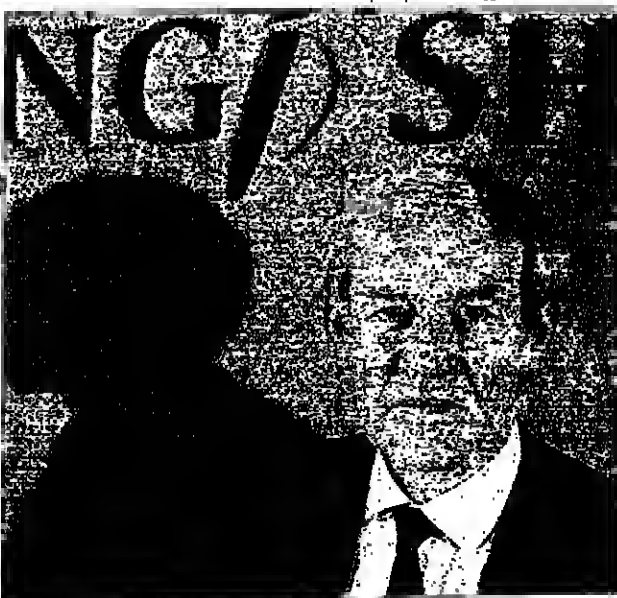
volumes, not margins. "By holding up a margin umbrella, you allow weaker competitors into the market," he said. However, he also acknowledged that reducing costs was now at the top of Kingfisher's agenda: to improve margins and push prices down further.

The benefits of the strategy were evident at B&Q, where the "Key DIY" campaign, which guarantees low prices on core products, pushed sales up 9 per cent. Woolworth's Street Value campaign helped deliver a 12 per cent rise in sales while Superdrug's selective price promotions in sun-care products and perfumes lifted market share.

Sir Geoffrey said the recovery in consumer spending had been "patchy" and predicted the high street would remain highly competitive in the foreseeable future. The French economy also remained sluggish with no upturn expected until next year.

The interim dividend is lifted from 4.2p to 4.4p.

Tempos, page 27



Sir Geoffrey reported progress across the board

Big brands learn to think smaller

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

RUMOURS of the death of big brands have been greatly exaggerated, although the search for better value by consumers means many brands will not be able to command premium prices in the future, according to The Henley Centre, the research group.

Its latest study into consumer and social attitudes across Europe shows that people no longer automatically equate high price with high quality as they did during the consumer boom of the 1980s. This inevitably threatens the premium price positioning — and hence margins — of leading brands.

This has already dawned on some brand owners. Last April, Philip Morris, the American food conglomerate, cut the price of Marlboro cigarettes by 40 per cent. Procter & Gamble, Benetton and Ritz Hotels have also reduced prices on some products and services. However, Henley's research shows consumers do not automatically assume low prices mean better value. Improvements in

product design or better after-sales service are important parts of the value equation.

Surprisingly, Henley found that more than a quarter of British consumers have retained the carefree spending habits of the 1980s. While this group is happy to splash out, about 20 per cent of consumers, mostly the self-employed or homeowners, have dramatically changed their spending habits during the recession and become more price conscious.

Henley believes brand owners face growing competition from the own-label products of major retailers. Henley's research shows these retailers have a strong franchise among consumers who believe they provide equal quality to branded goods at a lower price.

Eric Salama, Henley's joint managing director, says brands are not dead but adds that "successful companies will be those who demonstrate the superiority of their brand and manage to build a direct relationship with the consumers".

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Cinderellas of motor industry begin to reap their rewards

Britain's component manufacturers have been revitalised by the invasion of carmakers from Japan. Kevin Eason reports

On the grand scale of automotive achievement, the success of a small group of workers in the West Midlands was almost beyond embarrassment. Their mission was typical of this post-recession age in which managers and workers are under daily pressure to cut costs. The workers at Advanced Engineering Systems had succeeded, but there was much shuffling of feet when they took their results to the managing director's office.

For the cost reduction amounted to a tenth of a penny. If they thought that less than sparkling achievement would bring the wrath of Frank Burns, the managing director, on their heads, they were hopelessly wrong.

Their factory may be at Tipton, in the heart of the Black Country, but the philosophy is very much New Industrial Britain via the Japanese quest for manufacturing perfection. That means every cost reduction and every design improvement is a success, one step, no matter how small, towards the ultimate goal. As Mr Burns said: "We were almost too embarrassed to mention the saving to Toyota, but they were delighted that we had kept on making progress."

AES is one of the companies revitalised by the invasion of carmakers from Japan. A division of Unipart, AES is one of three manufacturing companies in the group which were third division by Mr Burns's own admission. When first Nissan, then Toyota and Honda set up their manufacturing plants in the UK, the first reaction from the British motor industry was to send for the smelling salts.

If the carmakers knew they had a fight on their hands, the component makers got ready to lie down and die. The Japanese notion of efficiency was alien to so many, there seemed no realistic chance that they could win any of the £2-billion worth of supply contracts that would be available.

On its first application to Honda to supply plastic fuel tanks from its Oxford Automotive Components business, the Japanese sent back a simple A4 sheet detailing nearly 200 manufacturing faults. Mr Burns and his team should have been daunted. Instead, they sent back a new tank and a sheet of their own A4 paper halving the number of design faults.

That helped clinch the contract: not the fact that Oxford Automotive was good at the job, but that its management was desperate to win and to learn. Now the company is sole supplier of fuel tanks to Honda's car plant at Swindon, Wiltshire, where it is due to make 100,000 Accord models a year within two years, and is expected to add a second car soon.

The success of Unipart Industries is probably typical of the revolution among Britain's automotive component makers. Component makers are the Cinderellas of the motor industry.



Frank Burns talks to Lisa Jones at AES, where the smallest savings count

Manufacturers win all the praise for their latest cars, but few people understand that cars are a mass of up to 30,000 separate parts almost entirely supplied by outside contractors.

Component makers employ three workers for every one in car manufacturing. A report for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders by Cardiff Business School's Centre for Automotive Research, to be published soon, estimates that 140,000 people work in component manufacturing companies, with annual sales worth £14.7 billion. Exports are worth £3 billion, compared with imports of just £800 million.

Five of the top ten component companies in Europe are British, including Lucas, GKN and Pilkington, and numerous foreign companies, such as Bosch, have moved into the UK to take advantage of cheaper labour costs, exchange rates and the high productivity of British workers, as well as the

introduction of Japanese car firms. However, a raft of smaller companies have thrown themselves at the opportunity presented by the introduction of the Japanese carmakers.

The reward has not just been Japanese business in the UK, but the attention of Europe's carmakers, which could add another £1 billion of work by 1995. Volkswagen is doubling component spending in the UK to £400 million a year, Ford Werke is spending almost £500 million a year here — 16 per cent of its total components budget and more than in any other nation outside Germany. Also in the queue are Mercedes-Benz and General Motors.

There can be no disputing the attractions that a lower exchange rate has conferred on UK suppliers. But the reason for searching out UK suppliers is that the Japanese carmakers have turned them into some of the most efficient in

the world. That is no overstatement for dozens of companies — such as Unipart Industries — have been turned from lumbering, outdated bastions of British industry into the sort of highly-efficient factories of which economists dream. It is the culture, the thinking of both management and workers that has made the difference, encouraged by the Japanese who, unlike City investors, can see beyond this year and are prepared to make a commitment stretching over the long term.

When Oxford Automotive discovered it was sole supplier of Honda's fuel tanks, the company had no up-to-date assembly line. Managers simply went to Japan and bought one. Introducing it into a factory steeped in traditional practices was more difficult. A team of six was picked to run the line placed in the dead centre of the factory with 350 more workers looking in. There was no bonus system, no clocking on, no foremen. They carried out their own maintenance and made their own quality checks. The result was that a failure rate of one tank in every 100 went to one in every 400.

For Unipart, the bonus was that the rest of the factory was forced to make notice of the new assembly line and workers were soon clamouring to run a similar system. The story was similar at Unipart's Premier Exhausts where old working practices of demarcation and clocking-in were scrapped and the 230 workers given "staff status", so that they now get sickness pay, paternity leave and a 38-hour week — the sort of benefits once reserved for white-collar workers.

In three years, the earning power of those workers has risen from £66,000 sales per employee to £158,000, or a total £36 million for a company which scratched £1 million worth of turnover in 1989. Performance was good enough to catch the eye of one Scandinavian carmaker, which is shortly to announce the placing of a £5 million a year contract with Premier.

The Japanese revolution soon rippled throughout the entire business and Unipart jumped at the chance to become a chosen supplier to Toyota's new £800 million plant at Burnaston in Derbyshire. However, the company was not experienced at the sort of precision machining being offered to AES, a business 80 per cent owned by Unipart and 20 per cent by Beans Engineering, which owns the Reliant cars business.

The contract was to supply those parts that no one sees and that do not cost very much, such as flywheels and knuckle joints which are only about £3.50 each, yet without which the vital drivetrain of a car cannot work.

Unipart simply sent executives to Japan to learn from the Japanese. Mr Burns explains: "What you learn from the Japanese is that they have no long-term contract with you but that they do have a long-term commitment. They are anxious to teach and to help. You can improve by learning from them and every improvement is treated seriously, not criticised in any way so long as they believe you are committed to helping them out costs and improving the quality of their components."

Which is why most saving of a tenth of a penny is treated as an achievement by the Japanese — where British managers might yawn and ask for another coffee.

TEMPUS

Flying in a virtuous circle

LISTENING to Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy describe his vision of the future of retailing is rather like listening to some Old Testament preacher delivering a particularly gloomy sermon. Sir Geoffrey foresees a future of low growth, intense competition, demanding customers and downward pressure on margins. The trouble is, he is probably right.

Kingfisher, however, has a strategy which should allow it to cope and even prosper in this unforgiving environment. The basic Kingfisher theory is that lower prices generate higher volumes which, if properly managed, lead to lower costs, permitting even lower prices. Kingfisher's latest results suggest it is at least half way towards completing this "virtuous circle".

Aggressive pricing and carefully pitched price promotions have increased like-for-like

sales and market share across all its British chains. The next step, as Kingfisher acknowledged yesterday, is to manage costs down too. Although there has never been much excess fat, there is scope to reduce costs through expansion of Epos, which is only just being rolled out in some of the chains, and rationalisation in the number of suppliers. Tight management of the supply chain is something Alan Smith, the new chief executive and a former Marks & Spencer man, knows about. There are probably lessons to be learned from Darty too, which is price competitive yet achieves margins above 10 per cent — more than double the rest of the group. Although margins were squeezed in the first half, cost ratios improved in the second quarter. The signs are that Kingfisher's virtuous circle will start to revolve soon.

Taylor Woodrow

COLIN Parsons, Taylor Woodrow's chairman, is showing admirable determination in his drive to repair the group's balance sheet. The disposal of four Australian shopping malls combined with a shrinking housing handbank cut debts by £87 million in the first half, and reduced gearing to 27 per cent.

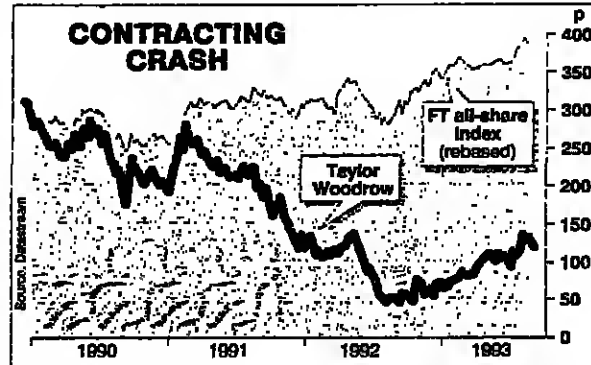
While debts will rise again in the second half, the cash raising exercise has turned Taylor Woodrow's stock market fortunes. A month ago, the group looked an odds-on certainty for a rights issue before long. Now the chances appear less than even.

While the group looks more robust than it did six months ago, Mr Parsons must still prove the value of its unpromising collection of businesses. Contracting

needs the most urgent attention, since it lost £3.4 million in the half, and its order book is declining rapidly, making it increasingly difficult to cover overheads. Margins in the property division are also too slim and it will return to losses in the full year, after another provision of up to £10 million. Finally, the group must demonstrate the worth

of its worldwide house-building subsidiaries since none has much size in its own markets.

Taylor Woodrow could return to losses in the second half, after its provisions. The shares trade on more than 20 times next year's earnings and will see scant rise in the nominal dividend until 1995, so they have risen far enough.



Manufacturing

HOW fortuitous for Kenneth Clarke that the Central Statistical Office has seen fit to tinker with its production figures in the run-up to his November Budget. The sharp downward revision in manufacturing gives him a far more secure platform on which to order the expected cut in interest rates.

If the figures had remained unchanged, Mr Clarke would have had difficulty justifying a rate cut on the grounds that the recovery was slowing, when manufacturing output was rising at almost 3 per cent a year. As it is, annual growth of 1.7 per cent, and a rise of just 0.1 per cent between the past two quarters, suggests an economy that has almost stalled.

It is difficult to believe that the change in export pricing and reclassification of such oddities as nuclear fuel and coke ovens could alone have influenced the figures so heavily, and the suspicion must be that the CSO has taken the opportunity of the rebasing of the index for a fundamental review of its statistics. Whatever the rea-

sons behind it, a 1 per cent downward revision of previous figures would be alarming for any investor who still had deep faith in official statistics. But the gilt market's rather limp reaction to the figures shows that most were unmoved by such ructions in the data. Gilt yields are already predicting lower base rates in any case. All the Chancellor needs now is a subdued figure for August retail sales, which are published today, and the case for a November rate cut will look thoroughly convincing.

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National Express

IN its first interim figures since flotation, National Express bawls aggressive pricing from British Rail, as if its state-owned competitor was not playing fair. The company is clearly not accustomed to such competition from that quarter, although it may have to get used to it after privatisation.

Although the competition damaged National Express's revenue, the company at least showed it can control costs,

which fell more than 1 per cent to £57.6 million in the first six months. This augurs well for margins in the busier second half.

The acquisition of East Midlands Airport, has used up almost all the cash National Express raised at last year's float. Given the group's difficulties in introducing a new fare structure into its main business, investors should hold back until management proves it can handle a more diverse spread of activities.

Heywood Williams

BY selling most of its glass division to Pilkington in January and buying LaSalle-Deitch, the American building products distributor with the proceeds, Heywood Williams has gambled that the American economy will carry its earnings further and faster than domestic recovery. Since the business it sold lost £364,000 in the first half, and LaSalle made £2.5 million in just four months, the outlook is promising. Particularly since Heywood is still left with cash of £18.8 million.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Capel director returns to roots

AFTER 34 years at James Capel — making him far and away the longest-serving director — David Heron, elder statesman of the convertibles scene, is heading for new pastures. Heron, deputy chairman of the London International Financial Futures Exchange, is moving to Smith New Court in January to shake up the derivatives desk — a move that heralds a return to his roots. "I wanted to do something fulfilling in the run-up to retirement," said Heron, 51, who was previously head of derivatives at Capel and is masterminding efforts to raise corporate capital for Lloyd's of London. After taking the firm into Singapore and Hong Kong in 1974, he spent ten years on institutional sales with Peter Quinnen before turning his attention to options. Much has changed at Capel since he signed up in 1965, fresh out of Christ's College, Finchley. "I was the first joint partner who was not a public schoolboy," he recalls. "At my first lunch there, all the others were old Etonians."

LORD Lever's nephew, Michael Lever, has defected from Smith New Court after seven years to sign up as banking analyst at Nomura. Lever, 38, had nine years at the Bank of England before joining Smith and is number two in the Edel league.

Warning bells

SO WORRIED is BT about the threat of competition from Mercury and the cable tele-

vision companies that it is to spend £13 million over the next three years on a consumer research programme. The British Market Research Bureau will conduct half-hour door-to-door interviews with 10,000 customers a month in an attempt to find out what would lead them to switch to competitors' services. Meanwhile, telephones around Britain will be ringing as two other firms ask another 60,000 customers whether they could ever possibly think of using anyone but BT. You have been warned.

Doing the rounds

BANKING staff are more prone to drink yuppie "designer" beers than other pin-striped types. So says Tim Turner, managing director of the Griffin Inns arm of the west London brewer, Fuller, Smith and Turner. Fullers opened a pub called The Mint, near Tower Bridge, in the summer of 1992 — just a Filofax's throw from Barclays Bank's temporary head office, the London Commodities Ex-

change and the International Petroleum Exchange. "It has done great business and has obviously benefited from its proximity to those organisations," says Turner. "What we have noticed is that we sell a lot of designer beers, traditionally associated with yuppies. We have noticed they are very popular with the Barclays staff." And the boys from the petroleum and commodities exchanges? "Oh no, they are more inclined to the cask ale."

Changing gear

WORD that Ford of Europe's former head of publicity, Roger Hayes, is to become director-general of the British Nuclear Industry Forum, the industry's trade association, prompts the question: what form of transport will he choose? In his time at Ford, Hayes, an ex-Reuters journalist, had a sporty Sierra Cosworth for himself, a Jaguar for his wife, and a Fiesta at the holiday home in France. "I did a deal with Ford," he says coyly. No battery-powered cars here. As though promoting the nuclear industry were not tricky enough, he has also joined the board of Matrix, a consultancy that counsels the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development among its clients.

STAFF at Morgan Stanley in Canary Wharf rushed to their windows yesterday when an unidentified man was spotted abseiling down the side of neighbouring CSFB. Another high-level departure? Alas, no. It turned out to be the window cleaner.

JON ASHWORTH

Power firms' excessive profits put a blight on industry

From Mr M. E. Simons
Sir, British industry and especially power intensive companies and their customers cannot afford ever higher charges from duopoly private power companies. With a rise of 20 per cent in power prices for key customers since April, examination of the accounts of the power companies is apposite.

In the year to March 1992, National Power's operating profit was 11.2 per cent of sales and in the year to March 1993, with operating profits of £599 million, it was 13.8 per cent at a time when much of British industry was in grave recession. Operating profit in 1992-3 was a fabulous 19 per cent on net fixed assets plus stocks and debtors. PowerGen's return was 20 per cent.

With recent price hikes and spikes, operating profit will rise even more.

H.M. Treasury may welcome booming profits to facilitate a good price for its remaining holdings in the power companies. Surely, wise counsel will take into account that penalised UK industry will wilt with unnecessary high and unpredictable power costs. Government tax take will be hurt and there will be further shrinkage in our industrial

base with avoidable job losses. Let them reflect what the French treasury would do under like circumstances.

One asks whether non-executive directors fully appreciate that unbridled quest for short-term profits will lead to an urgent investigation by Professor Littlechild, head of Offer, the electricity regulatory body. The sooner that this is initiated, the more likely it will be that industrial recovery will not be blighted by unacceptably high and erratic power costs.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN E. SIMONS,
24 Granard Avenue, SW15.

Only non-smoking local residents need apply

From Mr Martin Morton
Sir, The tobacco industry (and through it the Chancellor of the Exchequer), the Department of Transport and staff looking for work in London must all beware developments here in my office, however small and unrepresentative we may be.

When I recently replaced my secretary I was under overwhelming pressure from the existing office staff here to ensure that whoever came was a non-smoker.

Additionally, having recently employed secretaries who travelled from their homes to London on British Rail from Huntingdon and Haywards Heath respectively, I was looking for someone who either didn't travel by train or if he/she did, then was double sourced in terms of their ability to get to work. In recent years, strikes, the weather (snow and leaves), the IRA, objects on the line, shortage of staff/rolling stock, breakdowns, fires on the train or on the track, signalling difficulties, lack of security in railway

car parks and a range of other "acts of God" including on one occasion being shot at by wild fowling, have all mitigated against the effective availability of those of my staff who are solely dependent on British Rail.

Increased investment, privatisation or permanent good weather are all unlikely to cure these problems at once.

At a time when staff are more readily available, those who are at a travelling disadvantage (and who smoke), are going to be last in the employment queue.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN MORTON
(Director),
Oil and Chemical Plant Constructors' Association,
Suites 101-105,
(5th Floor),
Kent House,
87 Regent Street,
W1.

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Japan under pressure to cut rate after output falls

By Rodney Hobson

JAPAN and Germany reported a rise in their respective trade balances despite a slowing down in both economies. The figures put increased pressure on Japan to produce an economic stimulus package and possibly a discount rate cut ahead of the IMF meeting next week.

Japan's gross national product fell 0.5 per cent in the April-June quarter, equal to a 2 per cent annualised fall. Gross domestic product fell 0.4 per cent in the quarter.

Economists fear that the fragile Japanese recovery seen in the first quarter is giving way to a further downturn. Tsutomu Tanaka, of the Economic Planning Agency, blamed weak personal consumption and a decline in capital investment.

German GDP rose 2.2 per cent in the first half of 1993, although this was a less robust performance than the 7.5 per cent surge in the comparative period last year.

The figure included lower than expected growth of 6.2 per cent in the old East Germany, confirming that recession in the West was holding back recovery in the East. Japan's trade surplus expanded in August to \$7.5 million, up 7 per cent on August last year. The finance

ministry said imports had increased in volume because of the strong yen. It said it hoped the surplus would shrink after an expected expansion of domestic demand generated by economic stimulus measures.

However, analysts expect the current trend to continue in the short term. Nobuyuki Saji, senior economist at the Nikko Research Centre, said: "Basically, there is no significant change in the underlying trend, but Japan's surplus might grow in the coming months as the crude oil import price is expected to fall."

Analysts said car exports could shrink but semiconductor exports would continue to grow.

The German trade surplus is likely to deteriorate in the next few months because of the strong mark.

The Federal Statistics Office said the trade surplus rose to DM6.3 billion in June from DM5.2 billion in May. The surplus in the first half of the year was DM22.6 billion, compared with DM13.3 billion in the first half of 1992.

Economists said the figures will be less encouraging once the effects of the mark's appreciation since the turbulence in the European exchange-rate mechanism start showing up.



Liveried cleaners from ISS working under their company's trial contract from BAA at Heathrow Terminal 1

BAA cleaning goes first class

By Colin Narbrough

BAA, the airports group, has started to pay more for cleaning at Heathrow Terminal 1 in a radical deal with ISS, the Danish-owned cleaning company, that swaps the traditional cleaner for upmarket liveried operatives.

The deal for the annual £2.5 million to £3 million contract allows BAA for the first time to budget for the quality desired instead of for costs of materials and labour.

Roger Cato, BAA operations director, said that the experimental deal, which went live on July 4, was already showing results. He quoted a duty manager who said that she could "see the advantage from added value from day one". The two-year initial deal with ISS cost "marginally more" than the contracts with other companies that it had replaced, but brought improved cleaning, enhanced image and better staff attitudes, he said.

Unlike cleaners at other airports and other Heathrow terminals, the specially chosen and trained ISS workers, totalling 114 at Terminal 1, are to operate as information assistants too, Mr Cato said.

The different cleaning phi-

losophy was what BAA liked, Mr Cato said, noting that the cleaning industry in Britain has been very much geared to low price, which was not the route BAA wanted.

BAA decided to review cleaning about 18 months ago when looking at main areas of spending. Cleaning the terminals at Heathrow alone costs about £12 million a year.

David Openshaw, managing director of ISS Airport Services, formed for the Heathrow deal, said that the £300 per head had been spent on smart uniforms for airport cleaners and detailed training.

ISS recruited people with no ties with cleaning or airports and trained them in-house. Senior staff regularly go to ISS's "quality institute" in Copenhagen. Mr Openshaw said that ISS sought to motivate workers through participation and good conditions. Terminal 1 workers will earn at least £5 an hour and work 40 hours a week.

ISS, which plans a New York listing next year, has increased profits every year for 31 years. It is on target to boost pre-tax income by 10-15 per cent this year.

Jeyes raises payout despite profit slide

By Philip Pangalos

JEYES Group, the household cleaning products company that issued a profits warning in June, has raised its interim dividend as it sounded a confident note on prospects, despite reporting an 82 per cent slump in first-half profits.

Jeyes blames increased marketing and promotional costs and a delay in seeing a positive response from the moves, for a

drop in pre-tax profits to £374,000 in the 28 weeks to July 17, against £2.11 million previously. The group, whose products include Parazone bleach and Wet Ones, saw turnover in the first half advance to £58 million (£53.9 million), reflecting 1992's acquisition of Globol, the German maker of domestic insecticides, lavatory cleaners and air fresheners.

"Our markets are strong, our core businesses are growing and our profit

improvement programmes are well under way. We are optimistic that we will realise the savings which we have identified and restore the business to its profitable growth plan," the company announced.

Earnings plunged from 9.4p a share to 1.2p. But the interim dividend is raised to 3.3p (3.1p), reflecting the company's increased confidence. Jeyes shares added 4p to 340p.

Quarto calls for £9.5m growth fund

By Martin Flanagan

QUARTO, the publishing, marketing and production services company, yesterday announced a £9.5 million rights issue and the acquisition of Scafa, an American publisher and distributor of art and photographic reproductions.

The rights money will pay for the acquisition of Scafa, provide a war chest for future acquisitions by that company and help to reduce Quarto's borrowings.

Laurence Orbach, chairman and chief executive of Quarto, said that for the past 14 years, art had been a pivotal force of the business, accounting for 30 per cent of sales. The Scafa acquisition, he said, would push that to 37 per cent of total turnover.

Quarto is issuing 4.6 million new shares at 25p a share. The cash call is on the basis of three new ordinary shares for every 11 held, and nine new ordinaries for every 55 convertible preference shares.

Quarto said that in the half year to end-June, it boosted pre-tax profits by 20 per cent to £1.63 million on sales up 18 per cent to £19.5 million.

Earnings per share jump 25 per cent to 6.4p and the interim dividend rises 24 per cent to 2p.

Insurance losses grow at United

By Sarah Bagnall, Insurance Correspondent

UNITED Friendly, the life assurance group, reported a worsening of general insurance losses in the six months to end-June, in contrast to other insurers.

Pre-tax profits fell from £9.5 million to £6.1 million, reflecting a sharp rise in general insurance underwriting losses from £1.7 million to £7 million. The interim dividend was lifted 12 per cent to 5.5p.

The deterioration reflects the strengthening of reserves, particularly in the motor account. United has also changed its underwriting and selection criteria and incurred additional costs because of an expansion of property and motor business. Net premiums written in the general business account advanced 29 per cent to £53.5 million.

John Rampe, chairman, said the outlook is "for a substantial improvement, although the account is still expected to show a small underwriting loss in the second half".

Total premium income rose by 17 per cent to £163.6 million, partly due to the life business, which lifted premium income from £98.7 million to £110.1 million.



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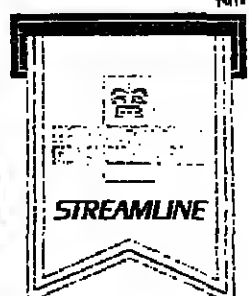
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EBC (Int) Pre-tax: £562,000 EPS: 3.03p (2.5p) Div: 1.75p (1.75p)	Profit rose from £481,000. Profit margins, especially in building and maintenance, are the principal concern of the company
TORDAY & CARLISLE (Int) Pre-tax: £7,000 EPS: 0.26p (3.1p loss) Div: Nil (nil)	£353,000 loss in 1992. Shake-up eliminated losses at Oldham Signs but DMI Europe profits fell and will be lower for full year
MAGELLAN INDS (Int) Pre-tax: £174,000 loss EPS: 0.4p (0.4p) Div: Nil (nil)	Previous interim loss was £93,000. Exceptional £496,000 for holding in Dunkeld and losses following the sale of the Silb brand
LONDON FORAINT (Int) Pre-tax: £10.5m (£3.4m) EPS: 8.03p (6.41p) Div: 3.2p (2.9p)	Development of international network of offices continues with opening of Paris office. Further organic growth is expected
LOPEX (Int) Pre-tax: £144,000 EPS: 0.38p loss Div: Nil (nil)	1992 loss £602,000 and loss per share 3.24p. Signs of improvement in some activities and board expects to pay final dividend
ALEX. RUSSELL (Int) Pre-tax: £632,000 EPS: 0.75p (0.68p) Div: 0.5p (1p)	1992 profit £621,000. Burton Roof Tile Plant now in full production. Second half trading profits are expected to be much better
WSP (Int) Pre-tax: £279,000 EPS: 1.8p (2.4p) Div: 0.9p (1.1p)	Profit is down from £352,000. Increased enquiries for retail and commercial refurbishment and signs of new projects being planned
JAMES FINLAY (Int) Pre-tax: £3.8m (£3.6m) EPS: 1p (1.8p) Div: 2p (2p)	Kenya profits are expected to be at least as good as last year. Remittance of profits has begun with all of 1991 and part of 1992
HEWITT (Int) Pre-tax: £335,000 EPS: 6.4p (7.3p) Div: 1.5p (1.25p)	Profit down from £411,000. Full year results are uncertain and depend on whether orders deferred from first half come through
ISA INTERNATIONAL (Int) Pre-tax: £2m (£1.3m) EPS: 3.29p (2.65p) Div: 0.55p (0.482p)	New computer system has brought significant gains in UK and will be implemented throughout German operations in the second half
BUCKINGHAM (Int) Pre-tax: £32.4m loss EPS: 51.85p loss Div: Nil (nil)	Figures distorted by £59.1m asset write-downs. Operating profit rose from £1.3m to £1.7m. Pre-tax loss in 1992 was £2.2m
BR DATA MANAGE. (Fin) Pre-tax: £4.2m (£3.6m) EPS: 14.3p (11.8p) Div: 3.25p (nil)	All operating subsidiaries are performing above budget and price pressures have eased. IT improvements are being studied

		BSE		NYSE		BSE		NYSE	
		PRICE	CHG	PRICE	CHG	PRICE	CHG	PRICE	CHG
TRUST	Intl Equity	226.10	346.00	-0.70	0.71	UK Small Cos Indx	222.40	226.90	-0.60 1.23
	-div Acct	226.30	271.80	-0.50	0.71	US 500	944.20	940.40	-3.80 1.24
	Energy	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	US 200	323.80	323.80	-0.00 1.25
	Intl Bond	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Bond	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.26
	-div Acct	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.27
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.28
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.29
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.30
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.31
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.32
BSE	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.33
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.34
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.35
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.36
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.37
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	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.39
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	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.42
NYSE	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.43
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.44
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.45
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.46
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	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.50
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.51
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.52
BSE	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.53
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.54
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.55
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.56
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.57
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div	227.40	227.40	-0.00 1.58
	Intl Div	227.40	271.60	-0.20	0.71	Intl Div			

Volume	<div>MONEY MARKETS</div> <div>Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 81.2 (days range 81.1-81.2).</div>																																																																																														
0	17970																																																																																														
5	16568																																																																																														
01	6459	<div>STEERING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES</div>																																																																																													
09	36499	<table><tr><th>Miki Rates for Sept 14</th><th>Range</th><th>Close</th><th>1 month</th><th>3 month</th></tr><tr><td>Brussels</td><td>2.7036-2.7966</td><td>2.7939-2.8459</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td></tr><tr><td>Amsterdam</td><td>2.7036-2.7966</td><td>2.7939-2.8459</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td></tr><tr><td>Copenhagen</td><td>0.9910-0.9720</td><td>1.0190-0.2160</td><td>3¹/₂-7¹/₂</td><td>10¹/₂-12¹/₂</td></tr><tr><td>Dusseldorf</td><td>1.0060-1.0900</td><td>1.0060-1.0900</td><td>3¹/₂-7¹/₂</td><td>10¹/₂-12¹/₂</td></tr><tr><td>Frankfurt</td><td>2.4768-2.4624</td><td>2.4768-2.4624</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td></tr><tr><td>Lisbon</td><td>251.17-253.21</td><td>252.85-251.31</td><td>97-107¹/₂</td><td>300-324¹/₂</td></tr><tr><td>Madrid</td><td>198.17-198.76</td><td>198.17-198.76</td><td>97-107¹/₂</td><td>300-324¹/₂</td></tr><tr><td>Milan</td><td>2335.10-2375.90</td><td>2369.20-2375.90</td><td>n/a</td><td>n/a</td></tr><tr><td>Montreal</td><td>2.0164-2.0495</td><td>2.0005-2.0003</td><td>0.34-0.24</td><td>0.50-0.39</td></tr><tr><td>New York</td><td>1.3363-1.3425</td><td>1.3464-1.3425</td><td>0.34-0.30</td><td>1.07-1.04</td></tr><tr><td>Oslo</td><td>10.7640-10.8900</td><td>10.7660-10.8900</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td></tr><tr><td>Paris</td><td>8.6660-8.6660</td><td>8.6660-8.6660</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td></tr><tr><td>Stockholm</td><td>12.7400-12.2400</td><td>12.8200-12.2400</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td></tr><tr><td>Tokyo</td><td>161.50-163.66</td><td>161.39-163.66</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td></tr><tr><td>Venue</td><td>17.66-17.55</td><td>17.66-17.55</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td></tr><tr><td>Zurich</td><td>2.1389-2.1766</td><td>2.1389-2.1619</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td><td>1¹/₂-2¹/₂</td></tr></table>									Miki Rates for Sept 14	Range	Close	1 month	3 month	Brussels	2.7036-2.7966	2.7939-2.8459	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	Amsterdam	2.7036-2.7966	2.7939-2.8459	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	Copenhagen	0.9910-0.9720	1.0190-0.2160	3 ¹ / ₂ -7 ¹ / ₂	10 ¹ / ₂ -12 ¹ / ₂	Dusseldorf	1.0060-1.0900	1.0060-1.0900	3 ¹ / ₂ -7 ¹ / ₂	10 ¹ / ₂ -12 ¹ / ₂	Frankfurt	2.4768-2.4624	2.4768-2.4624	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	Lisbon	251.17-253.21	252.85-251.31	97-107 ¹ / ₂	300-324 ¹ / ₂	Madrid	198.17-198.76	198.17-198.76	97-107 ¹ / ₂	300-324 ¹ / ₂	Milan	2335.10-2375.90	2369.20-2375.90	n/a	n/a	Montreal	2.0164-2.0495	2.0005-2.0003	0.34-0.24	0.50-0.39	New York	1.3363-1.3425	1.3464-1.3425	0.34-0.30	1.07-1.04	Oslo	10.7640-10.8900	10.7660-10.8900	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	Paris	8.6660-8.6660	8.6660-8.6660	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	Stockholm	12.7400-12.2400	12.8200-12.2400	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	Tokyo	161.50-163.66	161.39-163.66	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	Venue	17.66-17.55	17.66-17.55	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	Zurich	2.1389-2.1766	2.1389-2.1619	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂
Miki Rates for Sept 14	Range	Close	1 month	3 month																																																																																											
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Tokyo	161.50-163.66	161.39-163.66	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂																																																																																											
Venue	17.66-17.55	17.66-17.55	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂																																																																																											
Zurich	2.1389-2.1766	2.1389-2.1619	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂	1 ¹ / ₂ -2 ¹ / ₂																																																																																											
2234	504	<div>Source: Exel</div> <div>Premium - pr. Discount - ds.</div>																																																																																													
3054	551	<div>GOLD AND SILVER</div>																																																																																													
21782	Argentine peso	1.5444-1.5470	Australia	1.5351-1.5377																																																																																											

	Australia dollar	2.9762-2.9707	Austria	11.34-13.35
	Bahrain dinar *	6.578-6.580	Belgium (Com)	34.39-34.35
	Brazil cruzeiro *	163.67-163.02	Canada	1.3224-1.3222
	Cyprus pound	0.7949-0.79	Denmark	6.9592-6.9602
	Filipino peso	8.0745-8.073	Egypt	1.996-1.985
	Greece drachma	333.78-330.25	Germany	1.609-1.610
	Hong Kong dollar	11.9498-11.9591	Hong Kong	7.7246-7.7238
	India rupee	81.15-81.09	Ireland	1.4465-1.4480
	Kuwait dinar KD	0.4578-0.4595	Italy	1524.0-1526.0
	Malaysia ringgit	3.5556-3.555	Japan	103.6-103.7
+0.30	Mexico peso	4.71-4.81	Netherlands	2.5452-2.5425
+0.15	New Zealand dollar	2.7299-2.8069	Netherlands	1.807-1.808
-0.05	Saudi Arabia riyal	5.722-5.683	Norway	6.984-6.985
+0.25	Singapore dollar	2.4675-2.4712	Portugal	163.2-163.1
-0.05	Africa rand (R)	7.4665-7.5274	Singapore	1.9974-1.9984
	S Africa rand (rand)	5.2644-5.2672	Spain	132.0-132.00
	U A E dirham	5.608-5.732	Sweden	7.285-7.280
	Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyd's Bank		Switzerland	1.399-1.400

184 (+3)	Base Rates: Clearing Banks 0	Finance size 0			
164 (+4)	Discount Market Loans-Owing Right 6	Low 4			
166 (+6)	Treasury Bills (Discount) 2 mth 5% 13 mth 5%	Sell 2 mth 5% 3 mth 5%	Week fixed: 6		
61 (0/9)					
147 (-1)					

	Prime Bank Bills (Disp.)	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
	Sterling Money Rates	5% ⁵ / ₈	5% ⁵ / ₈	5% ⁵ / ₈	5% ⁵ / ₈	5% ⁵ / ₈
	Interbank	5% ⁵ / ₈	5% ⁵ / ₈	5% ⁵ / ₈	5% ⁵ / ₈	5% ⁵ / ₈
	Overnight open 6%, close 4.					

	Local Authority Deposit	5%	n/a	5%	5%	5%
	Sterling CDs	2.14-5.10	n/a	3.18-5.14	5% ⁵ / ₈	5% ⁵ / ₈
	Dollar CD	2.14-5.10	n/a	3.18-5.14	3.22-5.14	3.513-47
	Building Society CDs	5%	5% ⁵ / ₈	5% ⁵ / ₈	5% ⁵ / ₈	5% ⁵ / ₈

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Repo Finance. Make-up day August 31, 1993 Agreed since Sept 1985Q Oct 25, 1993 Schedule III: 7.15 %. Reference rate July 31, 1993 to August 31, 1993 Schedule IV & V: 5.800 %.

	Carroll	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Cd
	Danish	3-2½	3-2½	3+2½	3+2½	3-2½
	Deutschebank	7-6½	6-6½	7-6½	7-6½	7-6
	French Franc	7+7½	7+7½	7-6½	6-6½	7-6
	Swiss Franc	7+7½	6+7½	7-6½	6-6½	7-6
	Venez	7+7½	6+7½	7-6½	6-6½	7-6

	Gold	1000 oz	\$340.00-342.00	Clasr	\$345.00-343.00	High	\$345.10-345.60
			Low	\$340.55-341.25	Kruggermark	\$344.00-340.00	\$342.50-324.50
	Silvergold	100 \$80.00-83.00 (\$51.00-53.00)	New S800-83.00 (\$51.00-53.00)				
	Papiermin:	635.75 632.775	Silver:	64.02 (\$2.99)	Palladium:	811.75 872.00	

THE TIMES DEGREE VACANCIES SERVICE: ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

How the Vacancies Service works

Recruitment for arts courses is gathering pace as universities and colleges start to withdraw from clearing. The traditional universities are moving particularly quickly as the new academic year looms. Demand is high for modern languages, history and humanities.

However, today's list of arts and social science courses shows that some former polytechnics are still struggling to fill vacancies. There are about 30 new courses added to The Times Degree Vacancies Service.

Although the traditional universities look like taking up to 10,000 more students than they did last year, despite the government's attempt to halt expansion in the arts and social sciences, other institutions have accepted the need to consolidate. Surprisingly, the Polytechnic Central Admissions System now expects its overall number of students placed to drop this Autumn. Several institutions are planning to withdraw from clearing at the end of the week.

All the courses listed still had vacancies yesterday. The codes following each university or college name are those appearing in the UCCA or PCAS handbook for 1993 entry. Where a figure appears in brackets, it gives the institution's estimate of the number of A-level points required for entry.

Points are calculated on the normal UCCA scale, using a maximum of three A-levels. An A grade is worth ten points, B eight, C six, D four and E two. An A grade at AS-level counts as five points, B four, C three, D two and E one point.

A number of helplines are operating during the clearing period, which finishes on September 24. The official service, operated from Middlesex University, can be contacted on 081 801 3000 (a queuing system prevents the number from ringing engaged, but often means a long wait for callers).

The Times listings are compiled from universities' own returns. Not all institutions are included because some provide information to the admissions bodies and official agencies only.

UCCA

ACCOUNTANCY

Buckingham: NN43 (12), NN43 (12), NN41 (12)
Newcastle: N400 (18)
Reading: N114
Salford: TN94 (16)
Wales, Bangor: N400 (16)

AMERICAN STUDIES

Salford: G4NC (24), F102 (18)

ARCHAEOLOGY

Glasgow: V602 (16)

BUSINESS STUDIES

Buckingham: N120 (12), C8N1 (12)
Exeter: L112
Ulster: P9N1 (14), N140 (18)
Wales, Aberystwyth: C7N1 (10)

CELTIC

St Mary's Coll: CQ15, P015
Wales, Aberystwyth: Q500 (18)

CLASSICS

St Mary's Coll: CQ18, FQ88, QQ58, QQ18

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Edge Hill Coll: P434, LP33, MP93, P033
Ulster: Y460 (14)
Wales, Cardiff: P445 (22)

COMMUNITY STUDIES

Bradford & Ilkley Community Coll: L521, L510, N753
Coll of St Mark & St John, Plymouth: N1W1
Edge Hill Coll: LM3X, MTX5, M510, LM8X, M5V1

CREATIVE ARTS

Wales, Cardiff: P445 (22)

DANCE

Bretton Hall: W4W9, W460, W4P4, W4W1

DRAMA

London, Queen Mary & West: R2W4 (20), R2W6 (20), R2W8 (20), R2W4 (20), R2W6 (20), R2W8 (20)
St Mary's Coll: WFL1, GW14, QW59, QW54

DUTCH

London, UCC: T222 (12), TR22 (14)

ECONOMICS

Buckingham: L100/L102 (12)
Hull: L100 (18)
London, Goldsmiths: Y615 (12)
London, Queen Mary & West: LQ14 (20)
London, UCC: LQ14
Reading: L100 (20), L112 (20), L130 (14), L1N14 (20)
Salford: FL11 (10), L100 (16), L112 (18)
Strathclyde: G1L1 (CDD)
Ulster: L100 (16)
Wales, Bangor: L100 (16)

EDUCATION

Wales, Aberystwyth: VX13 (20)

EDUCATION (PRIMARY)

Edge Hill Coll: E2V8, E2E8, E4G1, E4V8, E2E8, E2C1
St Mary's Coll: E4F1

EDUCATION (SECONDARY)

Coll of St Mark & St John, Plymouth: E7W2
St Mary's Coll: E747, E757, E758, E750, E752, E711, E722, E753, E725

ENGLISH

Buckingham: Q3V1 (8), Q300 (8), QV1 (8), V1Q2 (8)
Edge Hill Coll: R1Q3, LQ83, LQ83, QV1, Q732, M093
London, Goldsmiths: Y615 (12)
St Mary's Coll: Q3V1, Q3C1

ETHNIC STUDIES

Edge Hill Coll: LT35, MTX5, RT15, LT85, TV51

EUROPEAN STUDIES

Edge Hill Coll: LT32, Q732, LT82, MT72
London, Queen Mary & West: R2T2 (16), WR48 (20)
London, SEES: T118 (18)
Essex: T9V4
Salford: T2T9 (20), F101 (14), F103 (14), F3R2, F3R8 (8), H3T2, H2T2, T9T2 (20)
Strathclyde: K1T2 (BBB), H2T2 (CCC), H1N1 (CCC)
Buckingham: N140, Y220, LT12 (10), M351 (8)

FINANCE

Ulster: N300 (16)
Wales, Bangor: N400 (16), N340

FRENCH

Edge Hill Coll: R1Q3, LR31, RT15, LR81, RV11
Hull: F1R1 (12), G1R1 (12), R100
London, Goldsmiths: L001 (12), LR12 (10)
London, SEES: R1R2 (20)
Reading: R100 (18), NR11 (20)
Salford: G5R1 (14), GR51 (14), R101 (14)
Wales, Bangor: R101 (15)

GEOGRAPHY

Edge Hill Coll: LV81, L800, LL38, LQ83, LR85, LM8X, LR81
Exeter: F800
Glasgow: F800 (16), F868 (16)
St Mary's Coll: R2B1, F81, GF18, FQ85

GERMAN

Bath: NR12 (24)
Hull: G1R2 (12), R200 (8), RR12 (8)
London, Queen Mary & West: R2W4 (20), R2W6 (20), R2W8 (20), R2W4 (20), R2W6 (20), R2W8 (20)
London, Goldsmiths: L001 (12), LR12 (10)
London, SEES: R1R2 (20)
Reading: R100 (18), NR11 (20)
Salford: G5R1 (14), GR51 (14), R101 (14)
Wales, Bangor: R101 (15)

HISTORY

Buckingham: V130 (8), QV31 (8), QV31 (8), V1Q3 (8)
Dundee, Inst of Tech: N400 (4)
E London: N420
Glasgow: N420
Gwent: N334 (10), AR2 (4)
Hull: V126
London, Goldsmiths: V100 (18), QV31 (20)
London, SEES: V100 (20), VV18 (20), RV8 (20)
London, UCC: V500, V149 (18), St Mary's Coll: V501, QV51, GV11, E722

HISTORY OF ART

Buckingham: V430 (8)

HOME ECONOMICS

Wales, Cardiff: N750 (16)

HOTEL AND CATERING

Buckingham: N120/N127 (12)
Wales, Cardiff: N700

IRISH STUDIES

St Mary's Coll: FQ15, QW54, FQ85, QV58, QW54, QV51, LQ35, QQ58

ITALIAN

Hull: R300
London, Queen Mary & West: R300 (14)
London, SEES: RT31 (20)
London, UCC: R300 (14)
Reading: NR13 (20)
Ulster: RRB3 (12), RRB8 (12)

JAPANESE STUDIES

Salford: F3T4/F3T4 (8), G5T4 (14)
Ulster: N1T4 (14)

JEWISH STUDIES

London, UCC: V149 (18)

LAND MANAGEMENT

Cranfield, Silsoe: N802
Reading: N800 (16), N802 (10)

LAW

Buckingham: M300 (12), MC39 (12)

LINGUISTICS

UEA: VQ71 (20)
Ulster: GQ51 (14), Q112, QR11, QR12

MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Bath: NR12 (24)
Edge Hill Coll: N126
Exeter: L143, L144
Hull: N142 (18)
Reading: NR11 (20), NR12 (20), NR13 (20)
Ulster: N59 (16), N740 (14), N900 (14)

MARKETING

Cranfield, Silsoe: D450
Wales, Aberystwyth: LN15 (14)

MODERN LANGUAGES

Leicester: T900 (20)
London, SEES: T120 (18), T140 (18), T130 (18), T150 (18), T160 (18), T170 (18), T180 (18), RT31 (20), RT81 (18)
Salford: TN94 (16), T9T2 (20), T2T9, RT16 (18), RT18 (18), RRC4 (18), RRC13 (18), RRC14 (18), RRC15 (18), RRC16 (18), RRC17 (18), RRC18 (18), RRC19 (18), RRC20 (18), RRC21 (18), RRC22 (18), RRC23 (18), RRC24 (18), RRC25 (18), RRC26 (18), RRC27 (18), RRC28 (18), RRC29 (18), RRC30 (18), RRC31 (18), RRC32 (18), RRC33 (18), RRC34 (18), RRC35 (18), RRC36 (18), RRC37 (18), RRC38 (18), RRC39 (18), RRC40 (18), RRC41 (18), RRC42 (18), RRC43 (18), RRC44 (18), RRC45 (18), RRC46 (18), RRC47 (18), RRC48 (18), RRC49 (18), RRC50 (18), RRC51 (18), RRC52 (18), RRC53 (18), RRC54 (18), RRC55 (18), RRC56 (18), RRC57 (18), RRC58 (18), RRC59 (18), RRC60 (18), RRC61 (18), RRC62 (18), RRC63 (18), RRC64 (18), RRC65 (18), RRC66 (18), RRC67 (18), RRC68 (18), RRC69 (18), RRC70 (18), RRC71 (18), RRC72 (18), RRC73 (18), RRC74 (18), RRC75 (18), RRC76 (18), RRC77 (18), RRC78 (18), RRC79 (18), RRC80 (18), RRC81 (18), RRC82 (18), RRC83 (18), RRC84 (18), RRC85 (18), RRC86 (18), RRC87 (18), RRC88 (18), RRC89 (18), RRC90 (18), RRC91 (18), RRC92 (18), RRC93 (18), RRC94 (18), RRC95 (18), RRC96 (18), RRC97 (18), RRC98 (18), RRC99 (18), RRC100 (18)

MUSIC

Newcastle: W300 (12)
Reading: W300
Ulster: W302 (14)
Wales, Cardiff: W302 (18), W300 (18)

POLITICS

Buckingham: ML11 (8), MV11 (8), Y618 (8), Y651 (8), MM13 (12)
London, Goldsmiths: Y615 (12)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Cambridge Rel Studs Centre: V800 (17)

RUSSIAN

Essex: R810 (14)
London, Queen Mary & West: R8W4, R8W6, R8W8 (20), R8T8 (16), R8W4 (20), R8T8 (16), GR18 (16)
London, SEES: R800 (20), R810 (18), R818 (20), R828 (20), R8T1 (18), R8V1 (20)
Salford: F3R8/F3R8 (8), H3T2, H2T2, T9T2 (20)
Strathclyde: K1T2 (BBB), H2T2 (CCC), H1N1 (CCC)
Buckingham: N140, Y220, LT12 (10), M351 (8)

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

Hull: R700 (16)
London, UCC: R700 (12), R2T2 (14)

SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION

London, Goldsmiths: L402 (16), Y615 (12)

SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDIES

Edge Hill Coll: L300, LT35, LP33, LM3X, LQ33, LR31, LR28, LV31, LT32, LM3V, LM39

SOCIOLOGY

Salford: L3V6 (18), L300 (18)
St Mary's Coll: CL13, FL83, LQ35, GL13

SPANISH

Hull: G1R4 (12), R401

THEATRE STUDIES

Ulster: W420 (16)

THEOLOGY

Edge Hill Coll: E2V8, E4V8, La Sainte Union Coll: V840 (8)
St Mary's Coll: V818, VC18, QV58, QV18, VC51, E725

URBAN STUDIES

Edge Hill Coll: M900, LM3V, LM8V

WELSH STUDIES

Wales, Cardiff: Q520 (16)

WOMEN'S STUDIES

Edge Hill Coll: LM39, MP93, M910, MQ93, M9V1, N915

PCAS

Brighton: N420 (14), NT42 (14)
Dundee, Inst of Tech: N400 (4)
E London: N420
Glasgow: N420
Gwent: N334 (10), AR2 (4)
Hull: V126
London, Goldsmiths: V100 (18), QV31 (20)
London, SEES: V100 (20), VV18 (20), RV8 (20)
London, UCC: V500, V149 (18), St Mary's Coll: V501, QV51, GV11, E722

ACCOUNTANCY

Brighton: N420 (14), NT42 (14)
Dundee, Inst of Tech: N400 (4)
E London: N420
Glasgow: N420
Gwent: N334 (10), AR2 (4)
Hull: V126
London, Goldsmiths: V100 (18), QV31 (20)
London, SEES: V100 (20), VV18 (20), RV8 (20)
London, UCC: V500, V149 (18), St Mary's Coll: V501, QV51, GV11, E722

CONTEMPORARY STUDIES

Humber: Y302

CREATIVE ARTS

Sunderland: W432

COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT

Cheltenham & Gloucester: D955, D9P3, F929
Middlesex: W299, F9X
South Bank: K201

CULTURAL STUDIES

Cheltenham & Gloucester: V816, P416, V116, W416
Wales, Cardiff: N750 (16)

DESIGN

Bournemouth: W250, W299, W223, W235
Cardiff: W204
De Montfort: W211 (12)
E London: V400
Hull: W215
London, Goldsmiths: W204
Middlesex: W299, W240
Plymouth: W250
Salford: W200 (8)
Sunderland: W432
Teesside: V480
West Surrey Art/Design: W230 (12)

ECONOMICS

Coventry: L100 (14)
De Montfort: L100 (12)
E London: L100, L110
Greenwich: L114
Hull: L114
Humber: L111
Kingston: FL81 (12), FL31 (8), FL51 (10), CL11 (8), L100 (14)
Lancashire: L100
London, Goldsmiths: L100, L190, M311, Y400
Middlesex: L1R1, GLM1
Portsmouth: L100, L118
Sheffield Hallam: N800
Thames Valley: L1R1, L1R2, L1R4, L1R5

ART AND DESIGN

E London: V400

ARTS (RELATED)

De Montfort: W999 (14)
E London: K100
London Institute: W160
Plymouth: V404

BANKING

London, Goldsmiths: N120

BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE

Dundee: L730 (4)
E London: L602

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Buckinghamshire Coll: N1T9, N122, F910
De Montfort: N122 (12)
Greenwich: M423
Gwent Coll: N150 (10)
Humber: N170
Luton: N122
Southampton: N122
Staffordshire: N122
Thames Valley: N122
Wolverhampton: N141

BUSINESS LAW

London, Goldsmiths: M340

BUSINESS STUDIES

Buckinghamshire Coll: N1R1, N1R2, N1R3, N1R4, N1T9, N122, N120
Cheltenham & Gloucester: N1T9, N1N13
Coventry: N1R1, N120
Colchester: N122
De Montfort: N120 (18)
Dundee, Inst of Tech: N120 (4), N130 (4), N140, N550, FIN1
E London: N120
Glasgow: N120
Greenwich: N120
Gwent Coll: N110, MN31 (10)
Humber: N170, N1R1 (10)
Luton: N121
Luton: N121
NE Wales: N167, N100 (4)
N London: G532, N124, N120
Nene Coll: N120
North Cheshire Coll: N1P4, W4N1, YN51
Northumbria: N1T9, N120
Queen Margaret's Coll: N550
Robert Gordon: N121
Sheffield Hallam: N121
Southampton: N120, G562, G568, N120, N113
South Bank: N1T9
Southampton: N100, N111, N120, N110, N122, N124, N120
Sunderland: N120, N140, N400
Swansea: N120 (10)
Teesside: N153, N125
Thames Valley: N111, N120, H1N1
Univ of C England: Y400, M390, N122, N120
Univ of W England: NY11
W London: G5N1, F6N1, L8N1, NV11, W3N1
Wolverhampton: N140, L1N1

CHINESE

Westminster: T3Q3, T3R1, T3R2, T3R3, T3R4, T3R8, TQ31

COMBINED STUDIES (ARTS)

Bath: Y100
De Montfort: Y400
Gwent: Y400 (6)
Lancashire: Y400
London, Goldsmiths: Y400
NE Wales Coll: QV31 (6)
Plymouth: Y404
Swansea: N120 (10)
Sheffield Hallam: Y400

COMBINED STUDIES (SOCIAL SCIENCES)

Glasgow: Y300
Luton: Y400, M300
NE Wales: N120 (10)
N Cheshire Coll: Y400
Swansea: N120 (10)

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Falmouth Art/Design: P438, V480
Glasgow: P400
Greenwich: N115, H621
Humber: P300
North Cheshire Coll: Y400
Queen Margaret Coll: N120
V400
Robert Gordon: P379
Southampton: P300, P308
West Surrey Art/Design: P400 (12)

COMMUNITY STUDIES

Bradford & Ilkley Comm Coll: L521, L510, N753
Luton: L521

CONSUMER STUDIES

N London: N700
South Bank: N980, N988

CONTEMPORARY STUDIES

Humber: Y302

CREATIVE ARTS

Sunderland: W432

COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT

Cheltenham & Gloucester: D955, D9P3, F929
Middlesex: W299, F9X
South Bank: K201

FINE ARTS

Southampton: W100, W108, N812, N813

FRENCH/FRENCH STUDIES

Brighton: N799
Buckinghamshire: N1R1
Coventry: RR12, RR14, RF13, RF23
Kingston: FR81 (12), CR11 (10), FR11 (10), FR31 (10), FR81 (12), GR11 (8), R100, R112, R114
London, Goldsmiths: T299, M311, L400, Y400
Middlesex: N1R1
N London: R100
Northumbria: RR12, RR18
Portsmouth: RR12, RR14, FR11, FR11, G1R1, FR11, R110
Staffordshire: G5R1, G5R2, GRM1, M350
Thames Valley: RRC2, RRC4, RRC1, RRC2, RR18, RR14, RR16, RR11, MR31
Wolverhampton: K4R1, RR18, N830, RR14

FURNITURE/ART RESTORATION

Bournemouth: W223
Buckinghamshire Coll: J450, J455
London, Goldsmiths: J570, J499

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To apply for this position please fax or send your CV including details of current salary and/or salary expectations to:

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Fax no. 071 261 1462.

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c. £18,000

The country's leading cancer charity requires a professional PA for the Director General. The successful applicant will have excellent communication, organisational, PC and audio skills. If you have the personality and professionalism for such a role, send a detailed CV to:



Ms CV Hamblett, Personnel Manager, Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QG. Closing date: 22nd September 1993.

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Mayfair based company are looking for a dynamic PA to work for their Financial Director. You will also be involved with personnel and training the office. If you have 3-4 years experience at senior level, 60 wpm typing and are looking for a challenging job that is not wholly secretarial. Please call DESI on 071-938 1718.

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First-class skills and PC literacy are required for this demanding role and knowledge of WordPerfect 5.0 and Symphony would be an advantage. Resourcefulness, confidence and a sense of humour are vital.

The remuneration package for the successful candidate includes salary in the region of c.£17k p.a., BUPA, life assurance, pension scheme and 25 days annual holiday.

If you feel you match our clients' profile and possess the necessary experience, please forward your resume without delay to: Jon Doyle-Holmes at John Bowler Associates Ltd, 4th Floor, Ocean House, The Ring, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1BL, quoting reference number SST1M15/9.

All applications will be reviewed directly by our client.

Closing date - 30th September '93

JBA

Recruitment Advertising

National Institute for Social Work

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY/PA

£15228 minimum

The National Institute for Social Work is an independent body working towards improving the effectiveness and quality of the personal social services. We are looking for an administrative secretary and PA for the Research Unit.

The job involves taking responsibility for administration and secretarial support for the Unit, including supervising one secretary and acting as PA to the Director.

Applicants must have: 4 years secretarial experience; 60 wpm copy typing; 90 wpm sh or 60 wpm audio; excellent grammar and presentation of work; experience of working unsupervised and under pressure; and experience of office management.

Closing date for completed applications: 30th September; Interviews: 20th October.

Application form and job description from: Juliet Gardner, NSW, 5 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9SS. Tel: 071 367 9881. CVs are not acceptable. No agencies.

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ZARAK

Challenges of work at the cutting edge

The rewards for medical secretaries are more than financial.

Joan Llewellyn Owens meets the assistant to a surgical team

While traditional secretarial jobs continue to be hard to find, medical secretaries remain in great demand, at home and overseas, according to Pat Brown of the Medical and General Employment Agency. Those with qualifications from AMSPAR (the Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Administrators and Receptionists) are particularly valued.

There is a wide range of openings for medical secretaries. They can work in hospitals, private clinics, general practice, public health and pathology laboratories, or for drug companies or research associations. Many AMSPAR members work in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, where English is the main language in the hospitals.

Medical secretaries who come into contact with patients — and many do — have an extra role, almost like that of a social worker. They are often the first to see an anxious patient, and must provide information and reassurance. In many cases, a busy GP or consultant will leave the administrative tasks to a medical secretary, including responsibility for financial matters. Some medical secretaries move on to become practice administrators.

Medical secretaries are not usually paid as highly as legal secretaries, unless they work in the Middle East, where the salaries are tax-free and the accommodation is provided free.

But the work has other rewards.

Liz Versleys, personal assistant to Sir Magdi Yacoub, at the Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospital, in south London, has worked with him for 12 years and has enjoyed every moment.

The first transplants began a year before I started, and it has been a privilege for me to be working with a pioneering team in cardiac surgery and to see the progress that has been made.

Liz's first job, after completing a two-year course for medical secretaries, was in the typing pool at the Charing Cross Hospital in central London. After five months there, she moved on to become a locum secretary, standing in for departmental secretaries. After a further five months, she was appointed secretary to three ENT consultants.

When she married and moved house, she found the travelling to work difficult, so she took another post in the X-ray department of the London Clinic. After having worked with consultants and patients, I soon realised that it wasn't the job for me. So when my husband showed me an advertisement for a medical secretary for a cardiac surgeon at the National

Heart Hospital in London, I decided to go for it.

Although Liz was not aware at the time, the job was for a clinical secretary to the then Mr Yacoub. For six years, she worked for him at the National Heart Hospital, taking shorthand notes on ward rounds and sitting in on clinics.

It was on the wards that Liz realised that she had an excellent

had someone with whom they could identify and could always ring for advice.

She also had to keep the consultant informed about all the known facts on the patient, including the name of the doctor who had referred them.

The responsibility and being able to make decisions in his absence is important to me

memory — she could nearly always remember a patient's blood group. So, when there was an offer of a heart donor, Mr Yacoub would ring her at home to find out to which blood group the patient belonged.

As well as typing up his notes, I wrote his letters to patients, and gave them instructions on the telephone about what they should do when they were coming in for heart surgery. After that, when they saw me in the clinic, they felt they

Having been with the Sir Magdi for so long, she has a shrewd idea about how he is likely to react to certain situations.

Often researchers come to her with a query, and up to a point she is able to say: "I don't think you should do this without seeing the professor."

Sir Magdi also leaves her to draft his letters, having told her of any points he wants to make. "Being able to make decisions in the professor's absence and having responsibility is very important to me," she says.

Although Liz does not wish to obstruct any member of the professor's department or clinical colleagues who have a need to see him, at times she has to be firm. "He is in so much demand from patients and staff at all levels that you must ensure that he has a breathing space after a complex heart operation."

"Every secretary gets to know who her boss wants to see and who he does not." Clearly, a medical secretary's job calls for many qualities, including tact, discretion and a particular interest in people.

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OPERA page 38
Sir Michael Tippett,
who was present at the
New York triumph of his
Midsummer Marriage

ARTS

GALLERIES page 39

Both male and female
nudes are featured in
Lucian Freud's show at
the Whitechapel



More Aristotle than Hemingway



David Mamet's provocative play *Oleanna* has come to the West End. The author talks, for the first time, about this piece and its place in his work to Benedict Nightingale

David Mamet thinks, or hopes, he has not given an interview for two years or more. He stopped talking to journalists, he says, partly because he finds self-analysis foreign to him, partly because he didn't know the answer to most questions. Mamet: "Interviews make me feel foolish, stupid." Me: "But that's ridiculous." Mamet: "See what I mean?"

Yet there we were, deep in Mamet's adoptive state of Vermont, talking about his life, his times, and his brilliant *Oleanna*, the play that is about to move from the Royal Court to the Duke of York's. It was an unexpected occasion, but then he is an unexpected person. He has a somewhat macho public image, thanks to *Oleanna*, *Glen or Glenda* and the other tough-talking plays he has set in his native Chicago as well as to his enthusiasm for hunting and collecting knives. But behind the beard and dark glasses I found a courteous, reflective, gently humorous man, fonder of quoting Aristotle than Hemingway, and with nary a hint of male swagger.

As we strolled past the pretty, clapboard houses and Victorian-period shops of the little town of Montpelier, Vermont, he seemed to be exchanging non-stop pleasantries with passers-by: "Hello, how's business?" He went to college in the area, moved back 15 years ago, and is now deeply ensconced there. He was much involved in a successful campaign to prevent the dumping of nuclear waste in the local mountains. He flew his poker-playing friends out to take part in his movie, *House of Games*. Yet though the place clearly satisfies his craving for roots, he knows he can never quite belong.

"There's a story of a man who came from the city, lived here all his life, and said one day, 'It's great to be a Vermont.' And this old fellow said, 'You ain't a Vermont.' And he said, 'Alright I'm not, but my children were born here, and they'll be Vermonters.' And the fellow said, 'If the cat crawled into the oven and had kittens, would you call them muffins?'"

Actually, that sort of feisty traditionalism is one reason he loves New England. He has learnt to appreciate the toughness of the Vermonters, too. "The weather is harsh, the earth is hard, the whole idea of Yankee ingenuity is very real. People take pride in making do with very little. There is also, he feels, a kind of energy in the soil that helps him in his own work."

Certainly, his plays pulsate with first-hand life. *American Buffalo* and *Glen or Glenda* are modern masterpieces, simultaneously powerful

and hilarious, and, after a deceptively downbeat first act, *Oleanna* rapidly turns terrifying. What we see is nothing less than the destruction of a university professor by a student who has interpreted his with-it attempts to help her as sexual harassment, even rape.

Behind this is a story that one of Mamet's friends told him. A young academic made a loose remark one day in class and spent the next two years being pursued through the university's judicial system, not by the student he momentarily offended, but by one of her advisers and against her will. He won his case, but at devastating personal cost.

For Mamet, that was confirmation of Orwell's belief, "that when thought-control comes, it will come from the left and not the right". It was also an example of what he calls "the absolutely virulent eruption of a new puritanism". He thinks it no coincidence that McCarthyite political correctness appeared as the Soviet Union disappeared. America has always liked to think of itself as a saviour —

ing, endured by its victims, in return for the diploma that gives greater status and economic power. But does this mean that the play's sympathies are altogether with the professor and against the student who finds him patronising, sexist and worse? Mamet says not. He finds it deplorable that women continue to be treated as second-class citizens and feels they are right to demand faster change. He also thinks the play more even-handed than some have supposed. "I agree with what she says as much as with what he says. She may do some things that are dishonourable, but then so does he. For me, it's a play about the uses and abuses of power, and the corruption is on both sides."

But isn't there part of him that would like to be seen as a crusader against political correctness? "Hell, no. That's not what I intended and I'm certainly not that courageous. I'm a big chicken, really I am." He sees *Oleanna* more as an attempt at a classically structured tragedy, with a story logical yet surprising enough to excite fear and pity, than as a didactic play. "And what tragedy reveals is that none of us have any idea of what's going on, that we're in the grip of fate and of our own characters, that we try and fail, that we're all in the same boat."

Certainly, he does not see *Oleanna* as a topical polemic, a genre he dislikes. "I think Virginia Woolf, God bless her, was right. You can't write in anger. You can't write to flog your ideas. Writing is not a political tool and drama never changed anybody's mind about anything. It's my job to write about what I know and see as accurately as I can and keep my political agenda, whatever that may be, out of it. If drama has a function, it is to delight us."

Some have, however, chosen to see *Oleanna* as politically offensive and have been less than delighted. Early in the play's first run in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a row of right-thinking Harvard professors stood up at the end and booed it. "We had actors yelled at when they left the theatre, and fistfights on the sidewalk, and screaming arguments between men and women. People got very angry at the play."

Not that controversy is a new experience. "From the time I started writing plays 25 years ago, I thought they would throw me in the clinic, and it may still happen. It used to be because I used very vicious, I thought very funny language. When we did *Oleanna*, I thought they were going to burn crosses on the grounds of the theatre."



Above left: Lia Williams and David Suchet in the Royal Court production of David Mamet's *Oleanna*, transferring to the Duke of York's Theatre from tonight. Above: the playwright

Somehow it is hard to identify Mamet the adopted Vermont with all this ferocious ado. He is, he says, a happier, calmer man than he was, thanks mainly to his second wife, the Scots-born actress Rebecca Pidgeon. "It seems to have pleased the Almighty for no conceivable reason to have granted me a new life, and I'm very grateful." He and she variously garden, ride, go camping, play with their pet Labrador. He even claims to take pleasure in worrying about his work, which he ruefully describes as "vast periods of sitting around, punctuated by waves of feeling I've lost my power and shock at its momentary reappearance."

Certainly, that is a worry he can afford to take lightly, for he seems to have dozens of projects in train, among them a triple-bill about being Jewish in Chicago called *The Old Neighborhood*, a novel about Vermont called *The Village*, a movie derived from Hasidic folktales called *Russian Poland*, and the film version of *Oleanna* itself. And more is doubtless to come.

given his sharp observing eye, his obvious enjoyment of the oddball and offbeat, his relish for sheer human perversity, his zest for hearing and repeating anecdotes. "Did you know what Clinton said on the radio the other night? He was talking to Caribbean heads of state and someone gave him a speech to read, and it was obvious he'd never looked at it before, and he said, 'I'm very happy to be here with you gentlemen today, as our countries are bound together by our common interest in fighting, drug trafficking, and by our common history.' He put a comma where a comma didn't belong, and as a result truer words were never spoken. God it was funny."

It wouldn't be a bit surprising if some such happy malapropism turned up in Mamet's next *Glen or Glenda* or *House of Games*. To meet him in his Vermont habitat is to feel the signs are good. He will be teasing and shocking and delighting us for years to come.

● *Oleanna* is at the Duke of York's (071-836 5122) from tonight

'Drama never
changed
anybody's
mind about
anything'

"and for that there have to be bad guys we have to be saved from"

But that was only one of the play's original ingredients. Writing it, says Mamet, was "less like programming a computer, more like my two daughters going into the kitchen and mixing what they call a potion, which means opening everything they can get their hands on and dumping it into a bowl". The recipe for *Oleanna* also included his own highly sceptical ruminations — derived from his experiences as a teacher of acting as well as his memories of studying at a liberal arts college — about the very purpose of a university.

"Somewhere in Jonathan Wild, Fielding says that education is useless except in those instances where it could almost be said to be superfluous. That struck a great response with me." Indeed, Mamet came to much the same conclusion that the professor in *Oleanna* (to a large extent a *raisonneur* character) expresses to his uncomprehending student. College is prolonged "hazing", or ritual bully-

TELEVISION: Lynne Truss joins Alan Whicker and Joan Collins in a time-warp



Alan Whicker amid the Miss World contestants

Under the fierce glare of a tropical sun, in an outdoor amphitheatre, Alan Whicker submits to a massed-clicking photo-opportunity of alarming dimensions, and looks suitably sheepish. For he is surrounded by 83 giggling Miss World hopefuls in swimsuits and sashes, and the location is Sun City, Botswana. Things could scarcely be worse. In perfectly phrased Whickerian voice-over, he larkily admits his problem: "Here I am judging a Beauty contest in South Africa. How. Politically incorrect can you get? Well, at least I'm not wearing a fur coat."

Twenty years ago the Miss World contest, from the Lyceum Ballroom or the Albert Hall, would command viewing figures of 27 million in this country. But

Too good a joke to miss

when she left our screens, it seems that Miss World did not just vanish away, leaving a poignant tearstained heap of white high heels, swimsuit and ill-fitting tiara. Alas, no. Instead, she fulfilled those age-old aspirations of the beauty queen. Yes, she travelled, met people, and helped little children.

At the start of her night, Whicker's Miss World (ITV) our intrepid reporter told how he had innocently travelled to Sun City (well, perhaps innocently isn't the word) to interview its creator Sol Kerzner, but somehow got roped into this. Poor chap. One might have believed his qualms (those nods to "political correct-

ness") had it not become increasingly clear that "Miss World judge" was a role Alan Whicker had been put on this earth expressly to perform. He was brilliant at it — from comfortably sparring with the other celebrity judges (Ivana Trump, Joan Collins, Sidney Sheldon), to joking with the beauty queens, to grappling with the voting system, to being frankly astonished by the eventual result.

What made it such enjoyable television was the chance to eavesdrop on the judges — mainly the banter between Whicker and Collins — as the whole ghastly event unfolded. "Who voted

for that?" they spluttered when the best national costume award went to Miss Canada in huge red-and-white Indian head-dress.

Meanwhile Ivana Trump, in insipid pink, worried openly about provisions against terrorists. "I am talking about de verse situation dare could be," she insisted, but the other judges refused to share her concern. They kept laughing, Sidney Sheldon, clutching his sides, knew exactly what to do when the shooting started: "We get on the floor!"

And so it went on, over three weeks of preparation for the big show. While the beauty queens practised their smile-and-wave rou-

tines in the background, the judges and presenters were going haywire. The MC needed autocue in letters 18 inches high, and still couldn't read it ("Welcome to Miss World 1999," he proclaimed, eventually, on the big night).

The judging was diligent, incredibly difficult, and resulted (mystifyingly, for Whicker) in Miss Russia winning the crown. But if you can't laugh, what can you do? A sense of weary hysteria overtook Whicker and Collins, which was great. Watching the beauties parade in their swimsuits, Joan Collins confided in an undertone, "For young girls, they've got the worst arses I've ever seen. They're all dropped." Perhaps they're tired, ventured Whicker. "Perhaps they drop in the afternoons."

Not all musical tragedies happen on stage.



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The naked and the living dead

GALLERIES: In his latest work, Lucian Freud reveals and dissects both bodies and minds, says Richard Cork

Like his grandfather Sigmund, Lucian Freud invites men and women to enter his sanctum, lie down and submit to an unwavering scrutiny. Most of the figures in his mesmeric and masterful show of recent work at the Whitechapel Art Gallery in east London are stretched out, and seem to be absorbed in private thoughts.

Some close their eyes, as if reverie had given way to sleep. But there is nothing relaxed about these reclining dreamers. They still appear tense and expectant, uneasily aware of the invisible observer who tries so zealously to define their solitude.

Unlike his grandfather, though, Freud refuses to stay within the prescribed limits of an analyst's session. His sitters find themselves posing for hours at a time, often early in the morning or late into the night. They are just as likely to rest on floorboards as lie on a bed, and most of them are naked. The decorous Sigmund would never have encouraged his patients to strip off and expose their blanched, defenceless flesh. Nor would he have positioned them in a bleak room, unrelieved by the rugs, drapes and rows of companionable statues which lined his consulting rooms.

These supremely ungratifying images derive a lot of their power from the starkness of the figures' surroundings. Nothing is permitted to soften the direct, unsettling encounter between model and painter. The woman in the Tate's magisterial canvas stands in front of a towering pile of rags. Crumpled and smeared with pigment, they serve only to accentuate her insecurity as she leans against them. Rather than supporting her as she succumbs to exhaustion, they threaten to overwhelm and even smother her.

As for the nude in a closely related canvas called *Lying by the Rags*, she appears to have given way to weariness altogether. While the rags press down on her from the top of the picture, she seems resigned to the possibility that her body might slide down the knotted, light-reflecting floorboards which fall below her as veridically as the side of a cliff.

Although there is no suggestion that the people in Freud's work suffer from the psychological distress which afflicted his grandfather's clients, they are far from

blithe. Nobody smiles in this exhibition. The children who make a rare appearance in one painting end up as sombre as the adults. Several figures shield their faces with arms or hands, in an apparent attempt to hide some vestige of themselves from the painter's avid eyes. But most of them accept the inevitability of exposure. Because they have posed for him before, they know that Freud will subject their flesh to an almost clinical examination.

In a superb 1988 painting tersely called *Naked Woman*, the white sheet she lies on is handled with streamlined fluency. So are the floorboards beyond the bed.

Several figures shield their faces, in an apparent attempt to hide some vestige of themselves

brushed in as smoothly as the surface of a calm, dark sea. She appears to be hovering above them, adrift and helpless.

Freud's pigment becomes far more heavily worked as he tackles her body. It gathers in encrusted, granular deposits around her breasts, ribs and knees. Veins are disclosed beneath the blanched skin, and her knuckles redden as she tightens her right hand into a fist. This is an uncompromisingly northern nude, a stranger to the sun perhaps stiffening herself against the cold. Although quickened by Freud's consummate mark-making, which responds with supple, darting deftness to her living presence, she is laid out like a cadaver on a mortician's bier.

An awareness of death informs everything in this show, even though a corpse appears only once. A small 1989 charcoal drawing of *The Painter's Mother Dead* might go unnoted, overshadowed by the earlier, far larger painting of the same woman. There, in an assured canvas that heralded the onset of Freud's most formidable period, the

mother lay awake on a bed. Although her son made no attempt to disguise the signs of old age peeping face and hand, she gazed alertly towards the ceiling.

But the painting's proximity now to the charcoal drawing, where her once-resolute features have crumpled at last, reveals how much the earlier painting had been concerned with mortality as well. Dressed in pristine white clothes summarised with unusual lightness, Freud's mother seems to be preparing herself for the end with silent stoicism.

Most of his sitters are younger, and thoughts of extinction could hardly dominate their minds. They are, however, preoccupied by a consciousness of isolation. One of the most commanding exhibits is alive with the flowing, attenuated forms of two women stretched out on the familiar form of a narrow iron bed. They lie close together, and yet seem oblivious of each other. One closes her eyes, while the second figure stares wistfully in the direction of her thin arm jutting off the bed to dangle in space. This projecting limb, suspended and alone, sums up Freud's vision of the figures he studies. He sees them above all as vulnerable, and nothing can deflect him from a relentless desire to explore their frailty.

One naked woman, seen from above, appears to hang upside-down. Although she clutches her own thumb, like a child bent on reassuring herself, the gesture ends up accentuating the woman's need for consolation. Even when Freud focuses on a married couple, in a picture called *Id and her Husband*, their conjugal fails to oust the disquiet. Both figures are asleep, and the man has thrown a protective arm around his wife's waist. But there is an air of desperation about the gesture, and the storm of paintstrokes covering the wall behind with their emphatic presence seems to intensify the anxiety.

The underlying belief that each of us remains solitary is given its most overt expression in the biggest painting Freud has yet produced. *And the Bridegroom* is a prodigious performance, juxtaposing two contrasted figures resting naked on a bed. The man is a colossus, and his body takes up much of the available space. The woman, pale and slight, manages to find a place beside him



Leigh Bowery, the performance artist, is the subject of Freud's *Naked Man, Back View* (1991-2)

though, and he turns towards a grey screen torn just above his forcefully upthrust knee.

The outcome should be depressing, and some viewers will recoil from Freud's flinty refusal to offer any consolation. But I find the grandeur of *And the Bridegroom*, combined with its rigour and perspicacity, a source of immense satisfaction. At the age of 71, Freud is at the peak of his power and painting by far the finest images of his long career. He never stops extending himself, most unpredictably in the pictures devoted to the performance artist Leigh Bowery. Whether erect in a chair or sprawling on the floor with one cavalier leg slung on a

mattress, this shaven-headed man-mountain has stimulated Freud into producing some of his most ambitious, flamboyant work.

Part sumo wrestler and part Rubensian odalisque, Bowery has the ability to fuse pugilism with voluptuousness. Seen from the back, on a stool scarcely able to withstand his weight, he looks like a fleshy embodiment of Yeats's "rough beast", waiting to tyrannise the world. From the front, though, aggression is replaced by insouciance as he bares his genitals and dares us to feel embarrassed.

Bowery's uner leg of inhibition has acted on Freud like a tonic, daring him to push towards a

greater flamboyance. Sometimes it hovers dangerously near rhetoric, but Freud is far too disciplined an artist to indulge in empty showmanship. His latest self-portrait is, for all its full-length nudity, taut and densely considered. Standing in open shoes, he holds a palette-knife in the air. His face is heaped with successive reworkings, testifying to his tenacious dissatisfaction and mistrust of facility. But there is iron certitude in the thumb gripping the paint-clogged palette, and his knife is poised in eager anticipation of the pictorial dissections yet to come.

Lucian Freud: Recent Work is at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London E1 071-377 0107 until November 21

RADIO Giving until it hurts

Two rather different forms of love were picked out in the first of the new Radio 4 series on charities, *The Gift Horses* (Thursday). Ten million people a week do something for charity, and we heard first the voices of the women who devotedly toil away at fairs, like the "raffle queen" who runs all the local raffles, and the woman who just finds a "lovely inner contentment" in helping. Very sympathetic.

Then we heard the voice of a professional fund-raiser, who believes that he should be well paid because "no one works efficiently in a hairshirt" — but who also spoke about love. Getting money out of people, he said, was just like wooing them sexually — you risk rejection, but if you win, you settle down in a stable relationship, with the money coming in regularly. Very practical.

The programme, presented by John Skrine, did not try to adjudicate between these approaches, but it was a quite compendious survey of the many faces of charity. The most interesting point came at the end — the revelation of a hostility to charities from some of the people they want to help.

There is now a radical lobby for the disabled which believes that the appeal to pity — the representation of the disabled as tragic or pathetic — does them more harm than good. This group would happily see the money dry up if the disabled started to be offered jobs, just like other people. The danger with that utopian attitude, it seems to me, is that, some of the disabled are likely to end up with the worst of both worlds: neither jobs nor financial help.

Another new series on Thursdays on Radio 4, *Cautionary Tales* from the French Countryside, consists of half-hour plays by Judy Leather, recorded in France. The first, *The Magic Foxglove*, began well with Melvin, an over-enthusiastic complaints officer, leaving his family to go to France. He gets a job behind the bar in a British pub in a small town, where he finds he can mix magic cocktails. This enables him to get hold of a beautiful, ardent Frenchwoman and to win the lottery.

The moral of the tale proved to be that, all the same, magic cannot make you happy — because you lose your self-respect if that is how you get things. What was absurd was setting the story in France and producing it there. We heard a few French voices in the background, but this simple fable could have been located in any milieu. And it was very simple, too.

DERWENT MAY

A feast for the eyes, not the ears

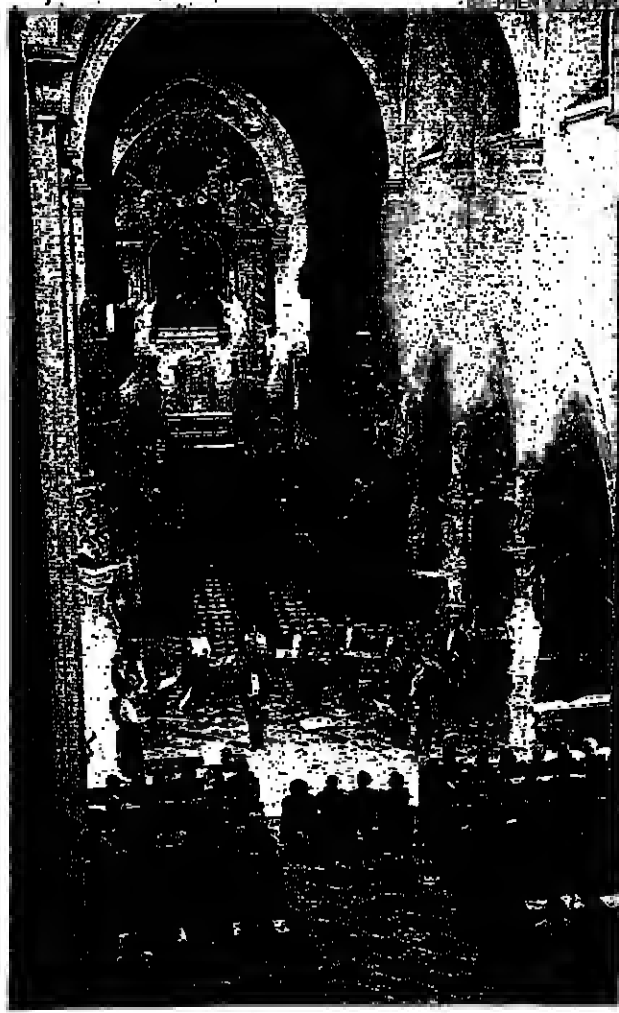
The architecture of a Czech palace overwhelms the music in a UN-inspired concert

It seemed a long way to go to a concert: by air to Vienna, then by road (passing Haydn's birthplace in Rohrau) to the Slovakian border at Bratislava, northwards through the Czech Republic towards Brno, westwards into the Moravian highlands (passing through Jihlava, where Mahler grew up) and finally arriving at Zdar nad Sazavou. It is a pleasant, friendly little town and just outside on the road to Prague, there is a magical world apart.

As you enter the narrow gateway you see a turn-of-the-century schoolroom and handsome clock tower on the right, a Gothic church in front, a partly Renaissance and partly baroque residence to the left. Behind these buildings are converted stables and, on the other side of a struggling garden, an 18th-century single-story house backing on to a lake with a forest beyond and a chapel spire just visible above the trees.

You could call it the Kinsky Palace. Certainly, it belongs to the Kinsky family, as it did up to 1948 when it was taken over by the communists. The house and the 24,000 acres that go with it were recently restored to Radoslav Kinsky by the new republic.

What saved the palace was its association with one of the greatest and perhaps the most original of baroque architects, Jan Santini. It was he who applied the extravagantly incongruous baroque decoration to the modest Gothic interior of the church, including the characteristically distorted piers carrying the organs on either side of the nave not



A concert in progress in the Kinsky Palace at Zdar

used for worship during the communist regime. It was reasonably well preserved as a work of art.

It was Santini who designed the residence which, since 1955, has housed an important book museum for the National Library in Prague. It was also Santini who designed the house by the lake: used until recently as a bookstore, it is now the decaying home of Count and Countess Kinsky.

Just outside the estate, on the other side of the road to Prague, is Santini's playfully designed cemetery, with curved outer walls and three little chapels. In the forest behind the palace is Santini's masterpiece: the Chapel on the Green Hill, eccentrically but triumphantly inspired by structure and decoration by the tongue and star symbols associated with its dedicatee, St John of Nepomuk.

All this was commissioned not by the Kinsky family but by Vaclav Vojtech, abbot of the Cistercian monastery that built the Zdar palace and occupied it until Kinsky's

Dietrichstein ancestors bought it in the 19th century. Last week the Zdar palace provided the setting for the third in the annual series of concerts organised for the United Nations Fund for Disabled People in the so-called lost palaces of Europe.

The concert was actually more an architectural than a musical experience. The acoustic in the Gothic church at Zdar is not bad, and the Independent Chamber Orchestra of Bohemia under the direction of Hynek Parkac is pretty good. But early classical music by Karel Stamc and Josef Myslivecek is nothing like as colourful as Santini's baroque decoration. Not even Haydn's Violin Concerto in G, stylishly played by Andrea Cappelletti, still less a few tuneful trilles by Dvorak, could break the architectural spell. The occasion, which benefited the Olga Havel Foundation most handsomely, was no less valuable and no less memorable for that.

GERALD LARNER

THEATRE: Triumph for one playwright, embarrassment for another

Kitchen sink, sinking kitsch

Land of the Living
Theatre Upstairs,
Royal Court

ON ONE level, David Spencer's new play is a kitchen sink situation. Two sisters, Karen and Frances, wash up, talk about the crud on telly and get drunk on a carton of plonk. Indeed, *Land of the Living* looks, in brief flashes, like a television soap or sitcom.

But Spencer's brilliance is to take the trite realism of those genres and move beyond it to far greater truths. He selects a slice of ordinary life and shows it shot through with grief. These Yorkshire housewives suffer domestic violence and marital strife. Both are struggling to break free from their family past and cope with bereavement: the anger, guilt and loneliness caused by their mother's suicide.

Spencer is psychologically searching. He plants depth charges in his characters. In the midst of the main action, fraught interior monologues surface or memories cut in, the latter played out by two young actresses depicting Frances and Karen as children (Sarah Doherty and the quietly intense Michelle Hardwick). Scenes can shift gear in a split second. The adult Karen tells flashlight jokes: suddenly, Frances is screaming and violent. So too, naturalistic dialogue flows into the patternistic, or grammar falls away, leaving a stream of consciousness that has the impressionistic sweep of a Greek tragic chorus.

The production has its problems. Shimon Casriel's set is confused and ugly. There is a television set on a box of quartz chippings and a sink set in a section of churchyard wall like some fitted unit from the Stone Age.

Still, the combination of the concrete and abstract does fit Spencer's mixed styles, and the chippings crushed underfoot disturbingly echo the suppressed explosions going off inside the characters.

Long, static monologues are broken up by the speakers stepping, between paragraphs, into different spotlights. This blocking, by



Nicola Redmond and Tom Marnion conduct a frank exchange of views in *The Baby Bush*

The Baby
Bush

GLASWEGIAN playwright Chris Hannan has been sporadically successful for nearly a decade, from the warmly received *Elizabeth Gordon Quinn* (1985) to his last play at the Bush, the prize-winning *Evil Doors*.

But into every writer's life a little rain must fall, unfortunately drenching the just (the audience and cast) as well as the unjust. Hannan's new play sprays this venerable fringe venue with unreflected, unfocused pretensions as wildly as a wonky showerhead.

The setting is ancient Rome. The dictator Sulla has just died and already factional politics are throwing the populace into confusion. The action centres on Macu, one of the professional wallers paid to keep over the dead (today they are called critics). She is a wild-looking woman whom Nicola Redmond, tall, broad-faced, red-haired, makes into a formidable Boadicea figure.

The squalid quarter she inhabits is a hornet's nest of potential troublemakers. The Scottish, Irish and Brummie accents of a multi-racial hub of cultures draw intriguing par-

allels between Rome at the dawn of its imperial glory and London, well past the lag-end glow of its own.

Polly Irvin's production fails to make anything significant of this: but then the writing is too busy skidding uncontrollably through political plotting and the domestic life of the neighbours to the psychology of the damned, the driven and the despairing.

Diffuse and sprawling, the action unwisely flounders into humour, not all of it intentional. "What's taken you so long?" asks Pompey's mistress, bumping into him after a civil war. We can but echo the question.

Macu's obsession with avenging her child, killed by Pompey's activists, emerges as the core of the play, but as she seemed mad long before the event occurs, it is hard to know what norm to judge her by. Tom Marnion's sturdy Wocky (a name that must reflect the multi-cultural Rome of 78BC) never explains his patient devotion to a raving nutter.

And Charlie Caine flails helplessly as Pompey, a part that seems rewritten or cut down to the point of unrecognisability since the play's premiere in Glasgow in 1990.

MARTIN HOYLE

ENGLISH TOURING THEATRE

ALAN CUMMING
AND
ELEANOR BRON
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THEATRE
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3-9 OCT
WHITLEY BAY
PLAYHOUSE
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12-16 OCT
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19-23 OCT
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2-6 NOV
DARTFORD
THE ORCHARD
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7

CHANNEL 2

Noddy Holder, Dave Hill of Slade (12.05am)

12.05am Motorticity Music Years. The second of three programmes exploring the different types of popular music that have emerged from Birmingham, the UK. City of Music Tonight features music from the 1970s including Slade, Black Sabbath and Judas Priest. **70/20535**

12.40 Film: Nooran (1962). The Noor Khan season continues with this melodramatic tale of two warring families who are distraught when their youngest children fall in love. In Urdu with English subtitles. Directed by M. Khan [5062631] Ends at **3.10**

SATELLITE

8.00 Shining Through (1982) In 1940 New York, legal secretary Melanie Griffith discovers that her boss, Michael Douglas, is a secret agent, and persuades him to send her to Germany to rescue her Jewish relatives. With Liam Neeson, Joely Richardson and John Gielgud (67840950)

10.15 Are You Lonesome Tonight (1991) A young wife, Jane Seymour, hires private investigator Parker Stevenson to find her

Chil De Young (51346)

SKY SPORTS

806) 7.45 Windsurfing

Time Baseball (148486) 9.00 Prime Bodies
 (397381) 9.30 Ladies English Open Golf
 (363181) 18.30 Motorsport RS2000 Rally
 (51950) 11.00 Kick Boxing (27467) 12.00
 The Footloose: Football Show (81973)
 1.30pm The Boss (76757) 2.00 Prime Time
 Baseball (13405) 2.30 Baseball (59047) 4.30
 Drag Racing (5115) 5.00 Motor World (4757)
 5.30 Ten Pin Bowling (6467) 6.00 Soccer
 News (379080) 0.16 Sportsweek (502370)
 7.00 European Cup First Round Replays

PORT

7.30am Step Aerobics (36115) 6.00 IAAF Athletics (42599) 9.00 Decathlon (35047) 10.00 Sailing (32399) 11.00 Eurogoals (45863) 12.00 Para-Cap Nord Rally (81689) 1.00pm American Football (116863) 3.00 Marathon (55115) 4.00 Cycling, Para-Bus-ton (8196) 6.00 German Touring Cars (1778) 6.30 Eurosport News (2028) 7.00 Bowling (92134) 8.00 Motor Magazine (78554) 9.00 Motor Racing Analysis of the Formula 1 Formula One Grand Prix from Monza

10-12 30am News 1-21

7.00am GP (8506221) **7.30** Neighbours (22934026) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (2293660) **8.30** EastEnders (1222931) **9.00** The Bill (1213283) **9.30** Juliet Bravo (1540026) **10.30** Big Deal (2504036) **11.30** Rhoda (8615365) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (1223047) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2935047) **1.00** EastEnders (8507552) **1.30** The Bill (2934316) **2.00** h. Ain't Half Hot, Mum

(301) 4.00 Dynasty

Clue (8802950) 8.00 Neighbours
(880663) 6.30 EastEnders (8990115) 7.00
Julian Bravo (3604554) 8.00 It Ain't Half Hot,
Lovelace (5149196) 8.30 Catmen Smith
(5151931) 8.00 Big Deal (3600778) 10.00
The Bill (1234776) 10.30 Cool It (1210196)
1.00 Top of the Pops (5841383) 11.45 Dr
Who (1161979) 12.15am Film: Top Mary
White (11937, b/w) Romantic comedy star-
ing John Morley as a penniless bachelor

20-2.00 Video Breeze

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

1.00pm Ratkan II (768225) **8.00** Jack in the Box (73757) **11.00** Stories Without Words (98844) **11.30** Say Ahhh! (99673) **12.00** Tams (30775) **1.00pm** Jack in the Box (77573) **3.00** The Adventures of Teddy Dugger (8216) **3.30** Ratkan II (5134) **4.00** Tweenies (4641) **4.30** All for One (7775)

KIDDELODEON

Patrol (20564), 7.

Snow (46028) 9.00 We All Have Tales: (70080) 8.30 Special Delivery (64912) 10.00
 Mosch's Dreamhour (62824) 10.30 The
 World of David the Gnome (58552) 11.00
 Marion, Lois and Bram's Elephant Show
 (66844) 11.30 Euroeka's Castle (12028)
 2.20pm We All Have Tales (75028) 1.00
 The World of David the Gnome (129825) 1.30
 Wisdom of the Gnomes (74359) 2.00
 Mosch's Dreamhour (1047) 2.30 Special

1) 3.00 Kabloov (88)
2) 15738) 4.00 Franco

and) 4.00 Haystack (8131) 4.00 Lemssa
explains It All (2399) 5.30 Welcome Fresh-
men (4008) 6.00 Guts (7950) 6.30-7.00 Get
the Picture (2202)

2

RACING 41

DETTORI TO RIDE
FOR GOSDEN
NEXT SEASON

هكذا من الأهل

SPORT

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 1993

CRICKET 42

MICHAEL ATHERTON
ON THE TASK
FACING ENGLAND

Pride and passion the key for United



Sharpe: only doubt

HERE in Budapest, where Manchester United resume acquaintance with the European Cup after a 25-year absence, the past comes forward to greet the present with affection. The match tonight against Kispest Honved is United's hundredth game in Europe, and Alex Ferguson, their manager, is planning for his team to go for goals to perpetuate the message of attacking football for which United are famous.

But when Eric Cantona, whose Gallic thrusts have put such inspiration into English football, steps on to the turf at the Boszsk stadium tonight, he will have a kindred spirit in the stand in the person of a portly, aging figure. For Cantona is, in spirit, in his gypsy wanderings and his

belief that the game is nothing without the improvisation of the individual, a latter-day Ferenc Puskas.

The ground for their meeting is more Kidderminster Harriers than Wembley, a small, unpretentious arena of non-league standards. But, being Honved and situated in the Kispest district where Hungary changed the course of international football in the 1950s, it should be an inspirational hunting ground to Cantona.

His younger brother already plays in the Hungarian league. He, as was seen with that breathtaking swivel shot which bounced against the Chelsea crossbar on Saturday, is in the mood. He still travels as a man apart, a silent, musing figure among the Uni-

Rob Hughes reports from Budapest, where Alex Ferguson's team renews its links with the European Cup tonight after 25 years

ted party. But there is a confident air to him, and in the eye there is the same look as in that of Puskas, 66, who was recently repatriated to his home city.

Those of less than middle-age may need to be told about Puskas. Anyone over that mark may both shudder and glory in the memory, for it was he, the "galloping major" who captained and inspired the Hungarian team that in 1953 stripped England of their "invincibility" by winning 6-3 at Wembley and then the following year luring England to the

Hungarian FA at the time, said. A player's game, then as now, a game imported to Hungary by Harry Perry, a British athletics coach.

There was little athletic about Puskas. As he warmed up at Wembley one West Ham player, Jimmy Andrews, nudged Malcolm Allison, saying: "Look at that little fat fellow, we'll murder them."

Murder was in the left foot of Puskas. He may have looked like Gascoigne after a long summer holiday, but he scored 83 times in 84 internationals, and with Sandor Kocsis he inspired the Hungarian national team to win 43 of 51 matches in the first five years of the 1950s. But in the European Champions' Cup Honved, who provided five players as the nucleus of that

amazing side, never became as illustrious a name as Manchester United.

The reason? A turn of history. Honved was on tour when Hungary's 1956 uprising began, half of them defected, and Honved's place in the football annals disappeared with them. In the body of Puskas it transferred to Real Madrid, and his partnership with the Argentinian, Alfredo di Stefano, became the imperious power of the European club scene.

Today's Honved has no great players, nobody to change the game at a stroke. Cantona, no scintillating winger like Ryan Giggs, possibly not even a player of the calibre of Lee Sharpe, who is the one doubt in the United team. Suffering from a groin

strain that Ferguson now reflects began while Sharpe played for England last Wednesday, he is rated no better than 50-50 to play.

Otherwise, Manchester United will be unchanged from the game against Chelsea, with Dion Dublin on stand-by to replace Sharpe and make his first senior game for United since he broke his leg over a year ago.

History is on the side of United. They have never lost a European game at Old Trafford, and when Ferguson managed an inferior United team to win the 1991 Cup Winners' Cup, his side scored ten goals in five victories overseas. That, as much as anything back in the 1950s, is both the burden and the expectation of tradition.

Convicts find escape on rugby field



Andrew Longmore meets young offenders who benefit from sport's reforming qualities

When Tony Bellott was sentenced to three years for robbery at the age of 15, he hardly saw the prison doors as the gateway to a better future. He might view it differently now.

Every Saturday, Bellott is given special leave to play rugby for Staines and his discovery that aggression can be channelled into more productive avenues than street thuggery might yet prove to be the turning point of his life.

Before he arrived at Feltham prison for young offenders, Bellott had barely heard of rugby, let alone played it. Strangely, in the language of the street spoken fluently by the majority of the 750 inmates, rugby is regarded as unacceptably violent. But Bellott's natural athleticism did not escape the notice of the physical education staff for long and he soon mastered the basics, graduating to the prison team known, with a laconic touch, as the Black Sheep, and made famous last year for a narrow defeat by Eton in the public schools' sevens tournament.

Quite how the prison side qualified for such a competition is open to debate, but they acquitted themselves nobly.

Yesterday, this year's intake, divided by skill, united by enthusiasm, was put through its paces by Phil Callow, the Cambridge University rugby captain. For some, it was a chance to try something different; for others, a good way of gaining acceptance. For all, it was a welcome relief from the boredom of a cell.

Yet the exercise is more than mere leg-stretching and letting off steam. For the past four years, rugby has been at the heart of an effort to change attitudes and prompt self-discipline so that release will not simply lead to a swift return behind bars. The long-term offenders' unit at Feltham has one of the country's lowest reoffending rates.

"Rugby doesn't have the street cred of football, which is good. Boys come to the game without feeling they have to behave in a certain way,"

John Gunning, the manager of the team and the senior officer of the long-term unit, said. "Most of the lads in here have never played rugby, but they find it needs concentration, discipline, control, toughness and that it encourages a sense of team spirit. But the aim is to exert a control mechanism so that they can be accepted back into real life more easily."

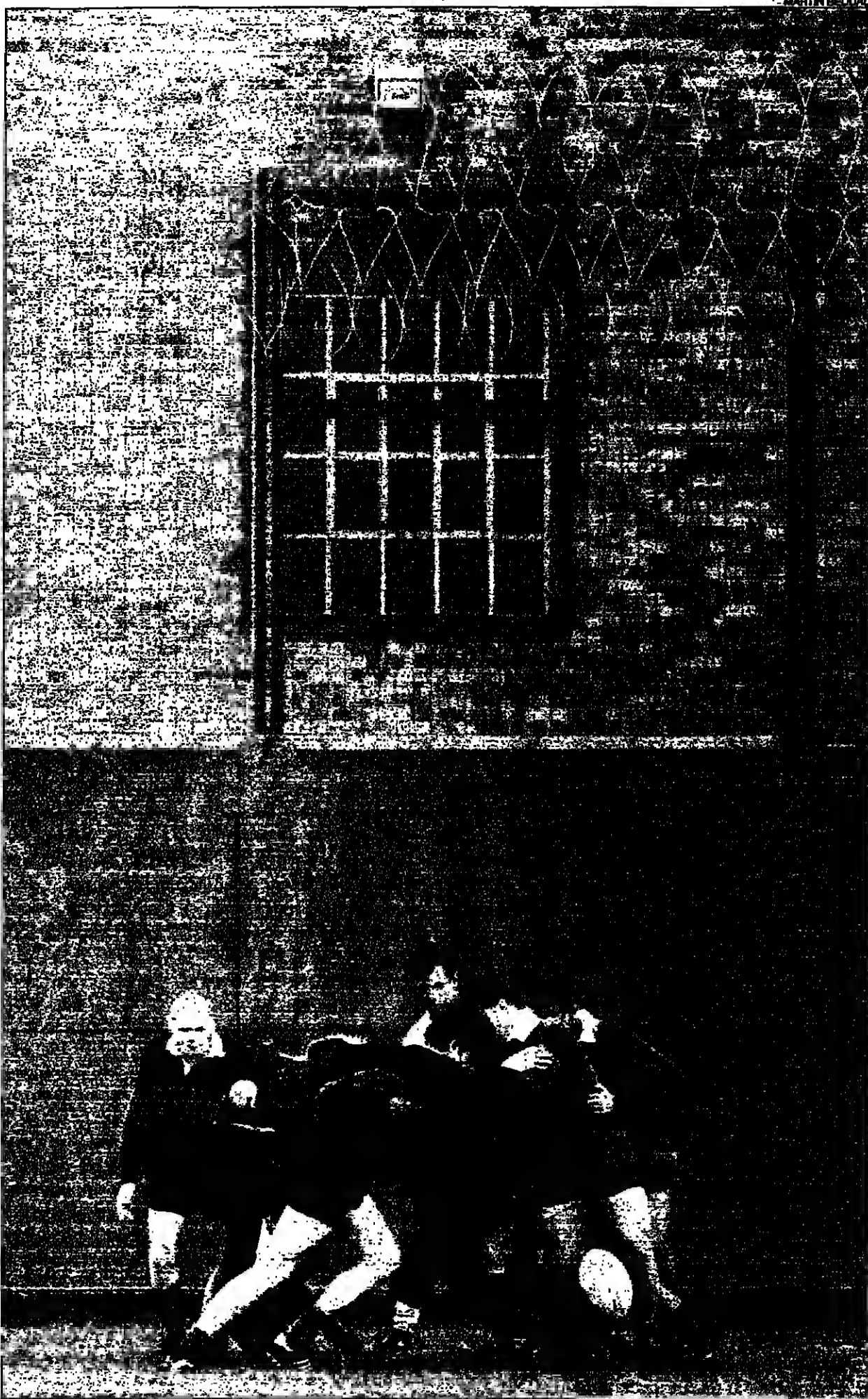
Rugby has taught lessons in accepting defeat as well. "They come across opposition bigger and stronger than them, which knocks some of the macho stuff out of them."

With the short time available and selection always subject to the whims of the courts, it has been difficult to teach the more specialised arts of the game. That is not really the point. "We have never won a scrum or a lineout in our lives," Roger Coombs, the chief PE instructor, said. "But we manage to win some games." British Airways second XV, the opposition for the first fixture of the season, should be warned.

There are, though, unforeseen hazards in the rugby programme. No sooner had a brand new scrummaging machine been proudly unveiled than three inmates used it as a convenient leg-up for an escape attempt. It has had to be chained to a tree ever since. On the whole, escape is confined to the mind.

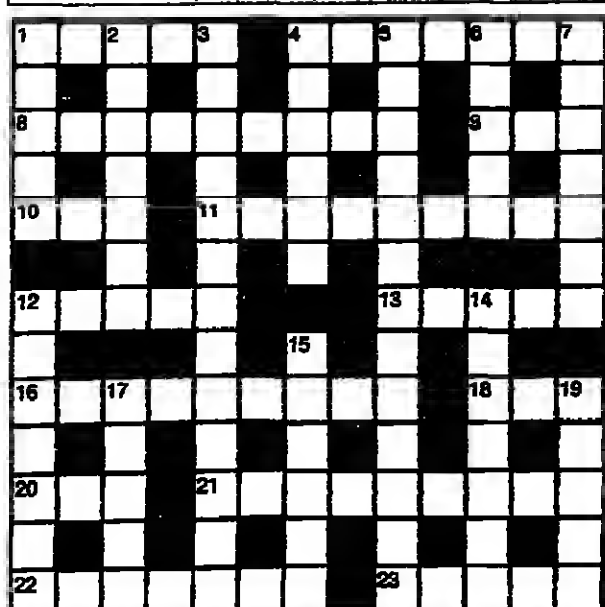
By the end of a vigorous ten-a-side yesterday, Callow had formed plans to bring his whole Light Blue XV down from the Ivory towers and on to the windswept plains of west Middlesex. "We're aware of how privileged we are compared to these guys. For all its aggression, rugby is a friendly game," he said. It has certainly captured Tony Bellott's heart.

"I'm out of here in January and I won't be back. I'll definitely continue playing. This is my game now," he said. One thing is certain, if he ever did try to make a run for freedom, no one would ever catch him.



The Black Sheep rugby team is coached by a Cambridge blue at Feltham young offenders' unit yesterday

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3200



ACROSS

- 1 Wales (5)
- 4 Red-edged carnation (7)
- 8 Pick on unfairly (9)
- 9 Burst open (3)
- 10 Toes (3)
- 11 Jalopy (3,6)
- 12 Reside (5)
- 13 Uninformed estimate (5)
- 16 Male family head (9)
- 18 Gilt (3)
- 20 Concession (3)
- 21 School session finish (3,2,4)
- 22 Punter's adviser (7)
- 23 Present age (5)

DOWN

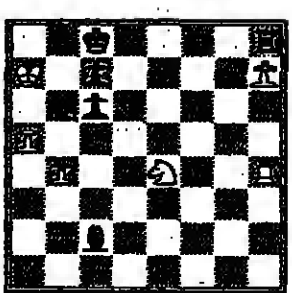
- 1 Quibble (5)
- 2 Gruesome (7)
- 3 Stupid (13)
- 4 Supple (6)
- 5 Gossiping (7,3,3)
- 6 S American bunningbird (5)
- 7 Non-stop (7)
- 12 Put down (7)
- 14 Brainy type (7)
- 15 Dealer (6)
- 17 Fill to brim (3,2)
- 19 Bulky (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3199

- ACROSS: 1 Sponge 5 Debate 5 Dyke 9 Exchange 10 Garret 12 Cold 15 Snaking horse 16 Cram 17 Pui off 19 Sand flea 21 Prim 22 Broly 23 Though
- DOWN: 2 Paymaster 3 Nye 4 Electric 5 Deck 6 Branch out 7 Tag 11 Role model 13 Last fling 14 Eggplant 18 Ploy 20 Air 21 Pro

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Lasker - Steinitz, World Championship 1896. White's immense passed pawn on h7 gives him a winning position. What is the cleanest kill?



Solution on page 42

By Philip Howard

VIGONIA
a. Vicuña wool
b. An Italian Utopia
c. A Roman fertility goddess

PARY
a. Sparkling pear drink
b. A breastplate
c. To tally

HEMITERY
a. A malformation
b. A monastery for hermits
c. A half-leather cloak

JOUK
a. A Japanese sailing boat
b. A Trobriand Island coin
c. A sudden movement

Answers on page 42

Doping chief wants proof

By JOHN GOODBODY

INTERNATIONAL athletics officials yesterday sprang to China's defence in the controversy over whether the country's women world record-holders are taking drugs.

Although Wang Junxia, who broke the 3,000 metres world record twice within 24 hours, and other members of her training group have been condemned for taking performance-enhancing substances, the accusations were described as "irresponsible" by Professor Arne Ljungqvist, the Swede who heads the medical commission of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

"It is a major tragedy of the struggle against doping that the atmosphere has been poisoned in this way," Ljungqvist said.

"Earlier, such a performance would have been applauded and rewarded and those who had succeeded would have become stars. Now they've become the victim of suspicion."

"I do not take it for granted that they are doped unless I have the proof."

The IAAF carries out out-of-competition tests using its own officials in China, and has decided to spend a further £170,000 next year on testing, particularly in that country.

Ljungqvist described the accusations made on Monday by Joan Allison, Britain's athletics team manager, and Lynn Jennings, the American former world cross-country

champion, as that of an "intellectual approach".

Ma Junren, the coach to Wang and Qu Yunxia, the 1,500 metres world record-breaker, has denied the accusations, saying the performances came from intensive running, often at altitude, and also diet.

The Chinese foreign ministry yesterday also rejected the accusations, saying that drug-taking is prohibited, with anyone found guilty being disciplined.

Linford Christie, Britain's 100 metres world champion, stepped into the debate with a plea that they be considered "innocent until proven guilty".

"Leaving for a competition in Japan on Saturday, he said he believed that the performances had been the result of hard work and determination and that it was wrong to accuse the Chinese of drug-taking without evidence."

"Instead of knocking them, we should try to find out what they are doing. They say they are clean and legal, so maybe we should try to learn from them," Christie said.

Dick Palmer, the general secretary of the British Olympic Association, pointed out that at sports such as table tennis, which rely on skill, China had been outstanding for years. "I am sure it can tattle through the country to find some athletes."

Olympic gesture, page 11
Leading article, page 17

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